

News

"You Go, Girl"

Gary Lloyd, award-winning storyteller and two-term president of the Virginia Storytelling Alliance, has told stories to over 980,000 listeners in nine states over the last 16 years. While he has an extensive range of topics, at our Feb. 21 branch event, he will be sharing tales of courageous young women, because — as he put it — "I am not speaking to the AAUM!"



Gary has two daughters, a librarian and an attorney, and a 4-year-old granddaughter who WILL grow up to be President one day, and another 4-month-old granddaughter who WILL succeed her after her two terms in office!

Join us for this entertaining and informative program on Saturday, Feb. 21, at the McLean Community Center starting at 10 a.m.

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**February 2015
Volume XLIV
Number 3**

Membership Coffee

A new member coffee will be held on Sunday, March 1 from 2-4 p.m. at Betsy Schroeder's house – 8441 Holly Leaf Drive. All new members, prospective members, and branch members are invited. Please RSVP to Betsy (icu43@cox.net or 703/209-5003) or Barbara Sipe (bfs4000@aol.com or 703/356-2385).

Membership Directory

An updated branch membership directory will be distributed in mid February. If your information needs to be corrected or updated please provide your updated information to Pam Bacher at prbacher@verizon.net or 703/281-2595 by Feb. 8.

McLean Area Branch

2014/2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-Presidents

Nancy Richardson

703/759-4789

nrichardsn@aol.com

Peggy Stotz

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Program

Co-Vice Presidents

Diane Alden

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Sandy Sieber

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Membership

Co-Vice President

Barbara Sipe

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Betsy Schroeder

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Treasurer

Mary Anne Graham

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maryannegraham@comcast.net

Board Secretary

Virginia Dobozy

703/533-0953

Vdobozy@aol.com

Branch Secretary

Linda Regan

571/282-3692

Regan.linda@gmail.com

President's Corner

Movers and Shakers

Ever wonder about the origin of that expression? The Shaker community contributed a furniture style, circular saw, and clothespin to our culture. They were also pioneers in the sale of seeds in paper packets. Very innovative. More, Aaron Copeland used the famous Shaker tune "Simple Gifts" in composing "Appalachian Spring."

Turns out there's also something to be said for "movers." Why, right here in McLean, I was moved recently by a new branch member who felt overlooked. She had made the move to join us and was now moving toward participating in one of our special interest groups. The next move was ours. Did any of us move to offer this person, or any new member, a ride to one of our branch events? Once there, did any of us move around to greet newcomers, or move over and ask a new member to sit next to us?

Every one of us, not just our V.P.'s for membership, needs to be on the move ... to welcome new faces, to encourage folks to join, to share our enthusiasm ... to secure our branch for the future. To achieve our mission will require movers. So, get a move on and contact ...

Barbara Sipe or Betsy Schroeder about AAUW's "half price" spring membership promotion;

Sandy Sieber or Diane Alden about our upcoming branch and special interest group events (Feb. 21, March 17, April 10, May 12);

Judy Page to help with STEM TASTICS (March 21);

Peggy or Nancy about our AAUW state conference in Charlottesville April 18-19 (reimbursement available);

Peggy about AAUW's national convention in San Diego June 18-21 (reimbursement available); and

Nancy to help with our branch's 46th Annual Used Book Sale (summer collections/sorting, Sept. 18-20 sale).

Despite early Shaker accomplishments, Wikipedia tells us that as of 2012 only three Shakers remained. For women and girls, education and equity, here and around the world, today and tomorrow, AAUW needs us to be movers, not Shakers!

Peggy and Nancy

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 articles are welcome as are suggestions for the newsletter.

Please send your **articles for the March newsletter by February 20.**

Newsletter Editor: Pam Bacher
prbacher@verizon.net 703/281-2595

Distribution: Barbara Carr
Barabaralcarr@msn.com 703/356-3127

Committee Presents Nominations for 2015-16

The branch nominations committee presents the following nominations for 2015-16 AAUW McLean Area Branch Board of Directors. The branch membership will elect the 2015-16 board at the March business meeting, March 17. Nominations may be made from the floor with the approval of the nominee.

Co-President: *Jane K. Schmiedekamp*
Co President: TBD

Co-Vice President Program: *Diane Alden*
Co-Vice President Program: *Margaret W. Doole*

Co-Vice President Membership: *Betsy Schroeder*
Co-Vice President Membership: *Juanita Cullen*

Branch Secretary: *Margaret Hines*
Board Secretary: *Linda Regan*

Treasurer: *Mary Anne Graham*

Nominations Committee: *Diane Alden, Mary Anne Graham, Elaine Lailas*

Celebrating Our Past Creating Our Future

AAUW of VA &
AAUW of WVA
State Conference



The AAUW of VA state conference this year is being shared by Virginia and West Virginia. The date is April 18-19 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, in Charlottesville, Virginia.

It is a wonderfully planned conference by the Harrisonburg and Winchester Branches! It is jam packed with relevant and inspiring events. After all, we are celebrating our 90th Anniversary! Among other things, AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman will speak; campus specialists from ODU and GMU will discuss campus violence; an authentic Victorian Parlour Play will be presented; and Neola Waller's long-awaited book, *The History of the American Association of University Women of Virginia, 1925-2010*, will be available for purchase (\$10).

The DoubleTree is a lovely location in Charlottesville! And, a special tour and lunch has been planned on Sunday at Ashlawn-Highland, the home of James Monroe, our 5th United States president ... the 4th from Virginia. Many interesting things to do may be found in Charlottesville, so bring the family and make it a weekend!

The convention brochure was distributed with this newsletter to all McLean Area Branch members. The AAUW of Virginia *Vision* will be published soon, and it will include even more details of this conference. Look for it in early February.

Sandra Lawrence
Patsy Quick
AAUW of Virginia Co-Presidents

AAUW National Convention To Be Held in San Diego June 18-21, 2015

National convention is an excellent way to see the impact of AAUW across the country, rural branches and city branches, large and small, all working for the same goals, improving the opportunities and lives of women and girls.

Every two years, hundreds of women leaders from across the country gather to discover new ways to empower themselves and other women and girls. AAUW's national convention is a unique opportunity to learn new skills, gain insight and inspiration, and connect with other women leaders.

Make no mistake, the national convention isn't all work and no play. The program is full of unique entertainment and fun surprises. It's also a place to meet new friends or catch up with other leaders and advocates from across the country. Plus, you can take in the best culture and entertainment the host city have to offer on exciting pre-and post-convention tours.

Give some very serious thought to attending. Treat yourself to some outstanding leadership training AND have a good time with other AAUW friends. The branch has funds, through our book sale efforts, to help defray the cost of attending. Any questions, give me a call.

Peggy Stotz, 703/734-8932.

Public Policy Matters



Lisa Says
Simon Says

This is a new year, a new beginning some would say, but that is quite redundant, since any beginning is new — or could it be old? This month, information regarding public policy comes from two sources.

Lisa Says ...

For Congressional news, AAUW relies on Lisa Maatz, vice president for government relations. At the Lobby Corps training session in January, Lisa and her staff gave us a view of legislative issues that AAUW will be addressing this year. They include the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Title I helps support children in poverty, but there may be a proposal to give that funding 'portability' which means more freedom to use funds outside of the usual guidelines; this may result in a growth of vouchers. AAUW supports public education and opposes public money for education services in the private sector. Required testing in schools is a complex topic. AAUW holds that reasonable testing is necessary.

Lisa also listed the Social Security program as a priority issue. There may be more efforts to borrow more of the funds; instead, improvements are needed in the program to keep it fiscally healthy.

Efforts to move toward equal pay are found in the Paycheck Fairness Act that almost passed during the past Congressional session. Now, a new beginning is required: a new legislative effort that would prevent discrimination and retaliation for the workforce. The Fair Pay Act would provide for 'equal pay for equal work,' again, legislation that was proposed in the past and for which AAUW lobbied.

You may have noticed that executive orders, originated by President Obama, target some of the inequities. For instance, he has limited power to issue directions for paid sick days for some Federal contractors.

Lobby Corps attendees received an interesting handout, "How a Bill Does Not Become a Law." It clearly describes the many obstacles to produce legislation in our democracy. For instance, a bill may be introduced in the Senate, sent to a committee and then to a subcommittee, providing two opportunities to be ignored or to fail

passage. If it does pass go, at this point it can be placed on the legislative calendar, which the Senate majority leader may refuse to do. If it does get to the Senate floor, it may be filibustered. Another possible hurdle is the attachment of 'poison pill' amendments which sabotage final passage and then, of course it can fail in the final vote of the Senate. If it succeeds and is passed, it is then sent to the House.

Simon Says ...

Marcus Simon is a delegate from the Virginia's 53rd district. He provided, in an email, an overview of some topics in the 2015 General Assembly session. He wrote that the sequestration at the federal level has resulted in the loss of defense contracts. Therefore efforts are being made to focus on job creation in the state. Because of the rejection of Medicaid expansion by the majority in the Assembly, there is another impact on revenue for the state. There is a possibility that the governor has administratively found a way to provide a level of healthcare to about 20,000 people who struggle with severe mental illness; however there are around 70,000 Virginians who struggle with serious mental illness.

Just don't sit there—find out who your elected officials are. Some are listed in the branch membership directory. However with the past elections we now have Barbara Comstock instead of Frank Wolf and Don Beyer instead of Jim Moran. At the state level, Kathleen Murphy was just elected to the Virginia Assembly to replace Barbara Comstock. It's easy to reach them by email if you have a message to give them, a right of every constituent.

Sources include AAUW briefing material and Marcus Simon newsletter.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

AAUW of Virginia Public Policy Update

AAUW of Virginia State Lobby Day Is Going to Make an Impact!

On Feb. 4, 2015, a cadre of AAUW of Virginia members is headed to Richmond—and we're going to make an impact!! We'll be carrying with us the signed petition that we all have been collecting signatures on since October asking our lawmakers to pass additional measures to provide assistance to survivors of human trafficking, especially sexually exploited minors. At the time we are going to print, we don't have the final fig-

ures on how many signatures we have collected, but it is looking good that we will meet our goal of 1000 signatures. Stay tuned for the final count, and thanks to everyone for collecting signatures.

Our Lobby Day activities will start at 8:30 a.m. when we attend the League of Women Voters of Virginia's Legislative Roundtable. We will then meet with the governor, lieutenant governor, and the speaker's chief of staff. All will receive copies of our signed petition and hear about our other legislative priorities. Our group will then fan out so each of us can visit our respective senators and delegates. Following this, we will split into two groups—one going into the Senate gallery and the other into the House gallery, where we will be introduced.

Everyone who signed up to attend Lobby Day received an email with detailed information. If you plan on attending, but did not receive the email, please let me know right away at ltourigny@gmail.com.

Lots on the agenda in 2015!

The Virginia General Assembly will meet in regular session in Richmond from Jan. 14–Feb. 28, 2015. You'll be able to find lots of useful information about the lawmakers and proposed legislation at the following websites:

<http://viriniageneralassembly.gov>, <http://lis.virginia.gov>, and <http://www.richmondsunlight.com>.

You may recall that last year we delivered an Equal Pay petition to our lawmakers on State Lobby Day urging legislation prohibiting employer retaliation against employees who share salary information with their co-workers. Thanks to Virginia state Senator Donald McEachin for introducing Senate Bill 772 for the upcoming General Assembly session which amends the existing state equal pay law to do just what our petition asked for!!

AAUW of Virginia Legislative Call-in Day is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 18, 2015. You may be wondering why we advertise General Assembly Call-In Day on Feb. 18, 2015, as a tentative event. Well, here's why. The fate of bills during the General Assembly session changes daily, and we don't know if bills we support or oppose will still be under consideration by Feb. 18. So, please write the Feb. 18 Call-In Day on your calendars—in pencil—and be on the lookout for confirmation much closer to Feb. 18.

If we go ahead with Call-In Day, it will take less than 10 minutes of your time. It will involve two telephone calls—one to your state delegate's office, and the other to your state senator's office, to let them know how you'd like them to vote on certain bills. After that, there will be a short on-line feedback form to complete. That's all there is to it. Not time-consuming, but very effective.

AAUW of Virginia belongs to several state coalitions of like-minded organizations: Healthcare for All Virginians (HAV), Pro-Choice Coalition, and the newly formed Women's Equality Coalition. Here's a quick synopsis of some January coalition activities.

Pro-Choice Coalition Day of Action was held Thursday, Jan. 22: Lobbying in Richmond and regional phone banks in Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, and the Charlottesville/Blacksburg/Roanoke area.

HAV Advocacy Day was held Jan. 28: The HAV coalition came together in Richmond to advocate for affordable, quality health care for as many as 400,000 Virginians without health insurance.

The Women's Equality Coalition is a newly formed coalition to develop a Women's Equality Agenda of legislative actions to pursue. A press conference announcing the coalition was held on Jan. 8 in Richmond.

Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day when women's earnings "catch up" to men's earning from the year before. It takes these extra months each year, thanks to the gender pay gap. In 2015, Equal Pay Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Some resources to help you plan activities for Equal Pay Day appear below.

AAUW's annual report, *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* (<http://www.aauw.org/research/the-simple-truth-about-the-gender-pay-gap/>). The report will be updated again in advance of Equal Pay Day 2015. AAUW will let us know when copies of the updated report are available for order.

A printable version of AAUW's *Quick Facts on the Gender Pay Gap* is available at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/quick-facts-on-the-gender-pay-gap/>.

Information about the gender pay gap by state and congressional district is available at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/gender-pay-gap-by-state-and-congressional-district/>

The full set of advocacy how-to-guides to help you plan any kind of advocacy activity is available at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/advocacy-how-to-guides/>

Federal Lobby Day is scheduled for May 7 (tentative) in Washington, DC.

Leslie Tourigny
AAUW of VA Public Policy VP
571/970-1782

Gifts

The gifts and talents that are a signature of the McLean Area Branch of AAUW members are measured by the many gifts and talents they share with the greater community. It is evident that the members recognize talents and are not afraid of the gifts and talents of others. In fact, this branch makes a big statement by the fundraising efforts by so many of the members who give time, effort, and talent into the great successes over these past forty-four years.

Just as we have done in the past, we have allocated monies to AAUW Funds that include the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, Legal Advocacy Fund, Leadership and Training Institute Leaders' Conference, Elect Her, and Public Policy Fund and also endowed an American Fellowship, an International Fellowship, and two community action grants.

What does that all mean? Speaking bluntly, it is worth \$50,000 that our endowed fellowships and grants have earned in 2014. That means, depending on how the finan-

cial market is doing, next year we will be responsible, as a branch, for fellowships and action grants that yield close to or more than \$50,000. We put our time and effort to work for us ad infinitum. **Congratulations!**

This branch also gives generously for local scholarships, sponsors STEM projects, and recognizes female high school students for their achievement in STEM. Apparently, about ten years ago, the question was raised about creating an endowment for local scholarships. The research found that it is very expensive to do this as a single branch. We have our Vanguard account that earns some interest. Efforts are being made to see how we can have the money we raise work for us in the future. We will keep you posted.

This year the McLean Area Branch is number four of the top 50 AAUW branches for donations. Two of our members are in the Legacy Circle by making a planned gift to AAUW; and several of our members are Friends of AAUW with generous gifts. A Big Thank You.

Elaine A. Lailas, and Deborah DeMasi,
Co-chairs AAUW FUNDS

AAUW McLean Area Branch

Semiannual Treasurer's Report

The full spreadsheet report is distributed in PDF format along with this newsletter. The following is a summary.

As of Dec. 31, 2014 balances in the branch accounts are as follows:

Suntrust - \$6,469.92
Vanguard - \$19,502.65
Capital One checking - \$3,063.73
Capital One savings - \$19,444.23

Mary Anne Graham, Treasurer

An Appreciation Ruth Rickard

Ruth Rickard, a lifetime member of AAUW, died at home in McLean on December 17. Ruth was a retired teacher of political science from Waukegan Illinois who relocated to Virginia to be near her sons and their families. She was keenly interested in world events, newspapers, education, theatre, movies, and fashion.

Ruth was a loyal member of the International Hospitality Group. She often invited AAUW members and diplomatic wives to join her for activities at the National Press Club.

A funeral service was held on December 22. The family suggested donations to the Wounded Warriors Project.

Diane Alden and Juanita Cullen



If You Shop at Amazon ...

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

CURRENT EVENTS

Feb. 3 at 9 a.m.: the next coffee and discussion on the first Tuesday of every month at Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Bring an article that interests you and join the conversation. If you plan to attend RSVP to Dawn Schulz (portia11@verizon.net).

And then Breakfast

McLean Family Restaurant is the venue for breakfast for any one who would like to come. We gather the last Tuesday of every month, this month February 24 at 9 a.m. RSVP to Suzanne Watts (scwatts1@cox.net)

Mary Lou Melley

MORNING LIT

The Morning Lit group meets on Friday, Feb. 13, at 9:30 a.m., at the McLean Community Center. We'll discuss *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien. All are welcome.

Please note: If Fairfax County public schools are closed all day for bad weather, we will not meet. However, if the county schools are opening late that day, we'll

Connections

meet as usual. Members should use caution before going out in slippery conditions.

Reed Isbell and Mary de Tray

GREAT DECISIONS

The new session of Great Decisions will be starting this month. We will start with chapter 1, *Russia and the Great Abroad*. The hosts are as follows:
Thursday, Feb. 12 at noon, Mary Ellen Weber;
Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 9:30 a.m., Angela Ehemann.

Please be in touch with your host to confirm attendance as soon as possible. We're looking forward to another year of good discussion on timely international topics.

New members can still join. Contact me for more details.

Angela Ehemann

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Arena Stage

Elaine Lailas
703/779-8679,
Elailas@aol.com.

Around Town

Nancy Mangione
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Caroline Pickens

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Bridge

Barbara Carr
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barbaralcarr@msn.com

Current Events

Jeanette Calland
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Dawn Schulz

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Suzanne Watts

scwatts1@cox.net
703/356-7926

Great Decisions

Angela Ehemann
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acehemann@verizon.net

Morning Literature

Reed Isbell
703/734-3385
rwisbell@verizon.net

Mary de Tray

703/992-7526
mdetray@gmail.com

In Memoriam

We are saddened to report the deaths of two long-time and active members of our branch.

Hope Syverson died on Monday, Dec. 15, 2014 at her home in Leesburg, VA. Hope was a member of our branch from 1994 to 2013. She was branch president 2001-02 and co-president 2002-03. Memorial services will be held at later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation of the National Capital Area or the Loudoun County SPCA. An online guest book is available at www.moneyandking.com.

Dorothy Dibner died at the Riderwood retirement community in Silver Spring, MD, on Jan. 8, 2015 at the age of 87. Dorothy was a member of our branch from 1986 to 2014 and was an enthusiastic supporter of our annual book sale.

A celebration of Dorothy's life will be held at 5:30 p.m. on March 21, 2015 at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA. An online guestbook is available at www.moneyandking.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
Barbara Sipe
703/356-2385
Or
Betsy Schroeder
703/356-4352

FEBRUARY CALENDAR



Tues, 3	9 a.m.	Current Events Meeting at the Star Nut Café in McLean *
	7 p.m.	Board Meeting at the Community Room at McLean House, 6800 Fleetwood Road
Wed, 4		AAUW VA State Lobby Day in Richmond*
Thurs, 12	Noon	Great Decisions Discussion Group at Mary Ellen Weber's home *
Fri, 13	9:30 a.m.	Morning Lit Meeting McLean Community Center*
Tues, 17	9:30 a.m.	Great Decisions Discussion Group at Angela Ehemann's home *
Fri, 20		Deadline for the March newsletter
Tues, 24	9 a.m.	Current Events Coffee at the McLean Family Restaurant*

AND IN EARLY MARCH

Sun, 1	2-4 p.m.	New Member Coffee at Betsy Schroeder's home*
Tues, 3	9 a.m.	Current Events Meeting at the Star Nut Café in McLean *
	7 p.m.	Board Meeting at the Community Room at McLean House, 6800 Fleetwood Road

* Information in this newsletter