



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

Co-Presidents

Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales
703.973.0925
myrtlehencor at gmail.com

Carol Mournighan
703.821.081
clmourn at gmail.com

Membership Co-VPs

Sue Christie
703.300.2779
suechristie at gmail.com

Barbara Sipe
703.356.2385
bfs4000 at aol.com

Editors

Cheryl Scott Williams
301.518.2773
cheryllswilliams at verizon.net

Marie Briones-Jones
703.346.6386
brionesjonesm at yahoo.com

Judy Lettes
703.407.3910
judy.lettes at gmail.com

Branch Website

<http://mclean-va.aauw.net>

May 2020
Volume XLIX
Number 8

Annual Business Meeting

Monday, Friday, May 15, 2020

10:00 am
Via ZOOM

A link to the meeting will be provided.

Presidents' Message

To comply with the Governor of Virginia's Executive Order 55, all in-person May branch activities and events have been cancelled. This includes our annual business meeting at which our Branch elects its slate of officers. Instead, a **ZOOM business meeting will be held Friday, May 15, at 10:00 am.**

It is imperative that members sign-in since a quorum is required, which is 15% of branch members. The meeting will last 10-15 minutes with the election of our slate of officers as the only item of business. The slate of officers is included in the Nominating Committee report in this newsletter.

For this ZOOM meeting, members will first receive an email giving instructions on how to sign-in. A second email will be sent inviting members to the meeting, which will also contain the link to join the meeting. ZOOM is user- friendly and simple to use.

All our board meetings and most Branch activities are taking place on ZOOM as well. If you participate in Morning Lit, Evening Lit, Current Events, or Great Decisions, you have experienced the technology and how nice it is to be connected to one another.

Later in this newsletter you will read that with sadness, the board's decision to cancel this year's book sale. We have a committee already at work to consider creative ways to raise funds to fulfill our mission.

Our next planned in-person Branch activity is the September meeting. We hope at that time our country and the world are returning to normalcy.

When historians write of this time, we hope they report events that led to a greater understanding of our shared values as well as our human potential to increased cooperation between individuals and across nations and to a stronger awareness of our place in a vulnerable ecological order.



Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales
and Carol Mournighan,
Co-Presidents.

Branch Board Meeting: May



The Board will meet via ZOOM:

Monday, May 11, 10:00 am

A link to the meeting will be provided

All branch members are welcome to attend.

If you're not a board member and would like to attend the meeting, email **Myrtle** at myrtlehencor@gmail.com, so she can send you an invitation.

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee, **Sue Christie**, **Diane Alden**, and **Dorothy Hassan**, presents the following slate of board officers for approval by the membership. Each officer will serve a term of two years beginning July 1, 2020.

- Co-President: **Naz Basit**
- Vice-President for Program: **Mimi Gronlund**
- Branch Secretary: **Ruth Raymer**
- Vice-President for Membership: **Myrtle Hendricks-Corales**

Membership Renewal

It's membership renewal time. Renewals can be done online at www.aauw.org with a credit or debit card. You'll need your member number and password to log in or create an account. For those who prefer to renew by check, a renewal form is included in this newsletter. Please note that renewal **checks should be sent to the Treasurer (address on form) and not the branch Post Office box.**

(See renewal form on page 4)

2020 Book Sale Cancellation

Sadly, the Book Sale for 2020 is cancelled. After much discussion with book sale leaders and the board, it was decided that the current pandemic poses too many risks and unknown outcomes to allow us to continue planning. A committee has been formed to consider creative ideas to raise money for AAUW Funds, branch scholarships, and STEM initiatives. If you have suggestions, please email **Betsy Schroeder** (icu43@cox.net.) If you have placed Book Sale flyers in the community advertising the Sale, please remove them when you are able.

AAUW Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

zoom Tips And Reminders

All branch in-person meetings and activities are occurring on **ZOOM**. **ZOOM** is user friendly. Below are some tips/reminders on using **ZOOM** when you receive the email invitation to join a meeting or activity.

1. To join the video chat, click on the provided link and, when prompted, indicate that you want to join with computer audio. The meeting number and password are provided in the link. Type in when indicated to do so.
2. You might be asked to download the free **ZOOM** software—please say yes (this is often the case the *first* time you log on with an I-phone or Android).
3. If for some reason you are not able to join with video, you can dial into the call and experience it as if it were a conference call. We will be able to hear you so feel free to speak up (and mute when not speaking).
4. The “controls” for your experience can generally be found by touching the screen or hovering your mouse around the outer edge—and they appear as a banner with options like mute through the image that looks like a microphone; similarly, the camera image turns video on/off (though video usually happens automatically).
5. When a person speaks, there will be a yellow border around the speaker’s screen; please consider muting yourself if not speaking (but don’t forget to un-mute so we can hear you when you wish to speak).
6. Please look for the option (around the edge of the screen) “Gallery View” so that you can see who’s joined the session; the other option is “Speaker View” where you will see your image and just the person who is speaking.

We look forward to seeing you at **ZOOM** meetings.

Editors’ Note

Our Branch has been informed that in order to **protect our members’ email addresses from being hacked**, we should **remove the “@” in email addresses** and **substitute the word “at.”** Whenever an email address appears in our newsletter or our website, it will be written as follows: [helenday at gmail.com](mailto:helenday@gmail.com). Apparently, it is the “@” sign that enables hackers to access email accounts.

Simply copy the phrase into an email “To” line, replace the word “at” with the “@” sign, and remove all spaces to re-construct a usable email address.

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.

Price. Selection. Convenience.
amazon.com



**Membership Application and
Renewal Form**

AAUW McLean Area Branch 2020-21

Name:

Address:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

E-mail:

Colleges and Degrees (1st one goes on record):

Interests:

Signature:

ANNUAL DUES (Check one):

New or Renewal \$85*

Paid life membership \$26

Dual Member \$85
(Nat. & state dues pd. at McLean Area Branch)

Dual Member \$11
(Nat. & state dues pd. at _____ Branch)

*Consists of \$59 for national, \$15 for state, and \$11 for branch; \$56 of national dues is tax deductible.

Please send check payable to AAUW McLean Area Branch to: McLean Area Branch Treasurer, 9113 White Chimney Lane, Great Falls, VA 22066

You may also pay dues online using a credit or debit card at the national AAUW website: <http://www.aauw.org>.

STEM Excellence Award Given to Virtual Science Fair Team

Emily Sun and **Abigail Xu**, students at Langley High School, have been selected as the 2020 recipients of our Branch's STEM Excellence Award. The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Excellence Award is given to a female student or team from a high school in the McLean area with an outstanding project in the field of Engineering entered in the Fairfax County Regional Science Fair.

This year the students participated in a Virtual Science Fair by submitting three-minute videos for the judges to review. **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** and **Judy Page**, serving as judges for our Branch, reviewed videos for 12 projects in order to determine the winning team. They were impressed by the work done by **Emily** and **Abigail** on the project, "Flashlight Powered by Heat of Human Hand," including the video to describe their work. **Abigail** and **Emily** developed and tested a flashlight that uses Peltier tiles to transfer body heat from a hand into electrical energy. They expanded on earlier work to develop a flashlight that works in a large range of temperatures.

Emily and **Abigail** each received a Certificate of Merit and a check for \$100. The students will also be invited to a Branch program in the Fall. In addition to receiving the AAUW STEM Excellence Award, **Abigail** and **Emily** were recognized at the Virtual Science Fair with a Certificate of Merit from the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, Northern VA Chapter (AFCEA), and an award from Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP for preparation, filing, and prosecution of a US Patent Application.



Abigail Xu, left, and Emily Sun, right, students at Langley High School, are shown in a photo taken from the video that they prepared for the Virtual Fairfax Country Regional Science Fair.



As part of their project, Abigail Xu and Emily Sun developed two prototype flashlights. This photo shows their second model made from a plastic water bottle lined with aluminum foil and covered with four Peltier tiles for heat transfer.

STEM Essay Contest 1st Place Winner

Since our plans to recognize the winners of the 2020 STEM Essay Contest in person are on hold, the students received their Certificates of Recognition and checks by mail. Our 1st Place winner, **Anna Wisniewski**, a 7th grade student at Cooper Middle School, sent this photo to **Judy Page**, STEM Chair, with an enthusiastic message that she was "quite excited to receive her certificate." We look forward to hearing **Anna** read aloud her essay on **Hedy Lamarr** at a future Branch event.



Anna Wisniewski, the 1st Place winner of the STEM Essay Contest displaying her certificate.



Equity Now

AAUW has a new website that provides information and urgency to its mission: Equity Now.

Following is an excerpt of **Kim Churches'** message:

"AAUW has been at the cutting edge of fighting for economic equity for nearly 140 years. And what we're witnessing is how the pandemic is amplifying and exacerbating all the nation's inequities.

- Close to 30 percent of working Americans have no sick leave.
- Women comprise more than 70 percent of the healthcare industry, including more than 85 percent of nurses. They are on the frontlines, putting themselves and their families at risk to care for others.
- More than 10 million Americans have already filed for unemployment due to the outbreak – and women may well be the majority.: more than 80 percent of waitstaff, 65 percent of retail cashiers and 65 percent of hotel and hospitality workers.
- Part-time workers and hourly wage workers have faced job loss.
- Education is being upended, exacerbating existing education gaps for lower-income and students of color.
- Women in college and graduate schools will be entering one of the worse economies in modern history, while still holding two-thirds of the nation's \$1.3 trillion of student debt.
- Retired women are twice as likely as men to live at or below the poverty level.

These are trying times for everyone: for us as individuals, for our families and friends and for our fellow AAUW members. But we are part of a community that is there for each other – as we have been since our inception."

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

Equal Pay Day 2020

March 31 marks the annual Equal Pay Day, when women symbolically catch up to men's average earnings from the previous year. The breakdown is as follows:

- **Asian-American Women's Equal Day is February 11.**
- **Women's Equal Pay Day is March 31.**
- **Mother's Equal Pay Day is June 4.**
- **Black Women's Equal Pay Day is August 13**
- **Native American Women's Equal Pay Day is October 1.**
- **Latina Women's Equal Pay Day is October 29.**

Some Good News

The Coca-Cola Foundation has awarded a \$500,000 grant to the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to support its Women's Empowerment Program. The program trains women in leadership and workplace negotiation skills as part of a multi-pronged effort to close the gender wage gap. More than 100,000 women are expected to benefit from it in 2020.

Virginia Update

The General Assembly in Virginia has enacted several bills that signify a major change. The Virginia Values Act extends broad anti-discrimination protections to LGBT citizens in housing, employment, public spaces, and credit application. Virginia residents will be allowed to vote up to 45 days before an election without a stated excuse, and Election day will become a state holiday. The Reproductive Health Protection Act removes political interference between a patient and her medical provider and abolishes the medically unnecessary restrictions for a patient seeking access to a safe, legal abortion. Several gun control measures were also enacted.

All scheduled Special Interest Group meetings will be conducted via ZOOM.

Special Interest Groups | May

Bridge Group The May meeting of the bridge group has been **cancelled**. The date and place of the next meeting will be announced later.

Morning Lit Group The Morning Literature Group will meet **Friday, May 8, at 9:30 am**. The book to be discussed is ***An American Marriage***, by **Tayari Jones**. If you plan to participate, email **Betsy Reddaway** at pbreddaway@verizon.net, so you can receive the **ZOOM** invitation.

Current Events The Currents Events Group had a successful, first time **ZOOM** meeting on April 14. Thirteen attended and the usual good discussion ensued. Current Events will meet on **Tuesdays, May 12 and 26, at 9:30 a.m.** All members are invited. If you want to participate, send your email address to **Mary Lou Melley** (maryloumelley@gmail.com) An email with a virtual link will be sent a day before the meeting.

Evening Lit Group The Evening Literature Group will meet **Monday, May 18 at 7:30 pm**. The book to be discussed is ***The Plateau*** by **Maggie Paxton**. Anyone interested please contact **Lynne Glikbarg** at lynneglik@aol.com. All attendees will be sent an invitation link prior to the meeting.

Great Decisions The Great Decisions will meet **Tuesday, May 19**. The discussion will be on **Chapter 4, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**. If you plan to participate, notify **Angela Ehemann** at Acehemann@verizon.net or 703-893-3578, so a virtual invitation can be sent. The Foreign Policy Association has made accompanying videos available to anyone who's interested at www.fpa.org/great-decisions.

Connections Calendar | May

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Morning Lit Group, 9:30 am, via Zoom | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, via Zoom | 12 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via Zoom | 13 | 14 | 15 Branch Business Meeting, 10:00 am, via Zoom | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Evening Lit Group, 7:30 pm, via Zoom | 19 Great Decisions, 9:30 am, via Zoom | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via Zoom | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

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

**Sue Christie
703.300.2779**

**Barbara Sipe
703.356.2385**

Do you have any AAUW McLean Branch news, updates or information you wish to share with our local community?

Please email your publicity materials no later than three weeks before you wish to have it posted in our local newspapers:

Sultana Parveen ([sultanarp at gmail.com](mailto:sultanarp@gmail.com))



**McLean Area (VA) Branch
P.O. Box 1002
McLean, VA 22101**

Branch Website | <http://mclean-va.aauw.net>

AAUW VA Website | <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>

AAUW Website | www.AAUW.org