



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

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Branch Website

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

September 2020
Volume XLX
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September Branch Meeting



Sunday, September 20, 2020
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Via ZOOM

At the September Branch Meeting, our first meeting of the year, we will welcome the newly elected Branch Officers and celebrate the brilliant young women awardees and scholarship winners supported by our AAUW Mclean Branch.

Watch for an email notification from **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** with the Zoom link, meeting ID and Password, the day prior to the meeting. Those without access to a computer or the internet, may join the meeting by phone. We hope to see you on Zoom.

Branch Board Meeting: September



Wednesday, September 9, 2020
10:00 am — Noon
Via ZOOM

The meeting link, ID, and Password will be emailed by **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** a day before the meeting. Branch Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

Presidents' Message: Standing strong together!

The past six months, although full of uncertainties and losses, have shown us the resilience of the human spirit, a shining bright light amidst the haze of uncertainty. It is giving us hope of better times to come. The Covid-19 Pandemic lockdowns, quarantines, and social isolation keeps us from gathering in groups with friends and family but the extra hours allow us to read, reflect, start new hobbies and pursuits, and/or take up old ones we formerly enjoyed.

The present times have also glaringly brought to light social, racial, and gender inequalities and injustice experienced by blacks and other minorities. One hundred years after suffragists risked all to ensure women could vote, we still struggle to use the power of our collective female voices to enact legislation essential for the wellbeing of women and families. Issues such as equal pay, equal job opportunities, ERA, and paid maternity leave require our time, talent, and effort. United we are stronger and have a louder voice. Let's continue to stand together and be the force of change.



Naz Basit and Carol Mournighan, Co-Presidents.

In Memory: Bob Alden

This summer, we sadly lost a dear member and friend of AAUW McLean Area Branch, **Bob Alden**. **Bob** and his wife **Diane** have been active and supportive members of our Branch for many years. While both held the position of Branch president, **Bob** was our only male Branch president.

A remarkable journalist and community leader, **Bob** retired from the Washington Post in 2000. He was their longest-serving editor at 48 years. As news editor, **Bob** put together the Post's first extra edition since Pearl Harbor to cover President Kennedy's assassination. He was also the principle architect of the historic edition on President Nixon's resignation. **Bob** was the leading male advocate for admission of women into the National Press Club (NPC) in 1971, where he served as president in 1976. Since then, 14 women have served as NPC president. **Bob** was also the principal founder of the National Press Foundation and served four terms as its first president.

As a McLean community leader, **Bob** was instrumental in obtaining the land and creating the McLean Community Center, the McLean Central Park, and the Dolley Madison Library. The Alden Theatre is named in his honor. **Bob** was also responsible for re-naming Rt 123 as Dolley Madison Boulevard in honor of her historic flight to McLean just before the White House was burned in 1814. George Washington University, **Bob's** alma mater, gave him a distinguished alumnus award as "a living legend" in Washington journalism. He was also a living legend in the McLean community and a proud supporter of women's equity.



Action: The Census – It is not too late! Make sure you fill out your census form, whether the short or longer, follow-on form, on paper or on-line by **September 30th**:

<https://2020census.gov/>

View response rates here:

<https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

2020 Fundraising Initiatives

The fundraising committee has been working hard this summer to raise money for AAUW Funds and local scholarships. Through the generosity of our members \$11,219 was raised to date. This was followed by a GoFundMe initiative with the incentive of three baseballs signed by Washington Nationals pitcher, **Max Scherzer**. At the time of submitting this article, we have accrued an additional \$6,000 with two more weeks to go in that effort. The GoFundMe initiative will end August 31. Final fundraising information will be published in the October newsletter. Committee members are **Christina Hamilton, Grace Hamilton, Myrtle-Hendricks-Corrales, Mafalda Marrocco, Carol Mournighan, Tom** and **Nina McVeigh, Caroline Pickens, and Betsy Schroeder**.

AAUW Funds

For 50 years, the McLean Area Branch of AAUW has held a used-book sale to raise money for AAUW Funds, local scholarships for women, and support other AAUW initiatives. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Branch cancelled the 2020 book sale. We are working on alternate fundraisers for this year and hope all Branch members will support those efforts.

From our yearly fundraiser, our Branch donates 50 percent to the National AAUW Funds for fellowships, grants, projects, and leadership development for women. Our Branch has established four AAUW endowments: an American Fellowship #1376, an International Fellowship #1815, a Career Development Grant #4319 (in commemoration of the McLean Area Branch 40th Anniversary), and a Community Grant #4267. The 2020-2021 Fellowship recipients will be announced in the October Newsletter.

The other 50 percent of fundraiser monies is given by our Branch to local schools and projects. Our Branch provides scholarships to local women attending Marymount University, Trinity University, and George Mason University. We also give several STEM awards. We recognize two high school girls for academic excellence in STEM, attending Langley High School and McLean High School. A STEM excellence award is given to our selection of the best science engineering project submitted by a female student at the Fairfax County Regional Science Fair. And in 2019, our Branch sponsored its first STEM Essay Contest, which is open to 7th and 8th grade students at seven local public and private schools. The contest awards a first and second place winner, as well as three honorable mentions.

We hope everyone will continue in our tradition of supporting these remarkable initiatives by donating to our 2020 fundraiser and perhaps owning one of our three **Max Scherzer** signed baseballs.

AAUW Funds Co-Chairs, Elaine A. Lailas and Mafalda Marrocco

Connect with the Branch on Social Media!

Now more than ever our Branch is committed to finding more ways to connect with members and build our community. We are excited to announce that the Branch has officially joined Facebook and Instagram. You can find us using username @aauwmcina on these links:

[fb.me/aauwmcina](https://www.facebook.com/aauwmcina)

<https://www.instagram.com/aauwmcina/>

**Grace Hamilton,
Branch Social Media
Chair.**

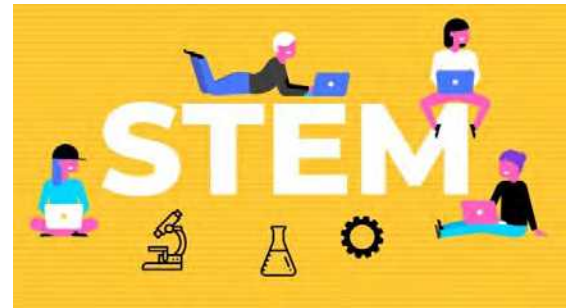


STEM Programs Planned for 2020-2021

Planning for our 2020-2021 STEM programs will go into full swing virtually this fall. Consider volunteering for one or more of these ...all from the comfort of your home!

Our three ongoing STEM programs are:

- **High School Achievement Awards in Math and Science:** An award each in Math and Science to a junior year female student at several McLean area high schools.
- **STEM Essay Contest:** Awards to 7th and 8th grade students from selected McLean area schools, who write an essay about women who made a difference in STEM fields but did not receive recognition for their contributions while alive.
- **STEM Excellence Awards:** Recognition for one female student or team from a McLean area high school submitting an engineering project to the Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair.



Here are some of the activities that you can volunteer for this year:

- Join the **Local Awards Committee** that manages the High School Achievement Awards in Math and Science. Volunteers are welcome to serve as high school liaisons. Each liaison will be in touch with one high school to arrange for the selection of the award winners. In preparation, the volunteers hold one meeting to review what needs to be done. Committee members are solicited now through mid-October for approval by the Branch Board no later than the December board meeting.
- Become a member of the **STEM Essay Contest Steering Committee** and help oversee the process. This committee meets twice – in November to plan any changes to the activities from last year and in March to review the inputs from the judges to finalize the winners. Committee members are also encouraged to serve as judges to be more familiar with the submissions.
- Serve as a judge for the **STEM Essay Contest**. Each judge is asked to rate about 20 essays during a three-week period from mid-February to early March. Evaluation criteria and a form are provided for submitting feedback.
- Serve as a judge for the **Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair**. In March 2020, the students participated in a virtual fair by submitting a three-minute video along with their abstract. It has not been decided if the 2021 Fair will be virtual or whether the judging will take place in person on the scheduled date of March 20, 2021. Volunteers need to be comfortable interviewing around eight to ten students about their projects and assessing in broad terms how well the student handled the statement of purpose, hypothesis to be tested, procedure, description of data, and results. From the students who are interviewed, one student or team is selected to receive the award.

If you're ready to volunteer or would you like more information, contact **Judy Page**, [judypage at gmail.com](mailto:judypage@gmail.com), 703-847-1950. Or, we can set up a Zoom call to chat.

Also, we are looking for new ideas for programs or projects that encourage young women to pursue STEM fields – please be in touch if you have any suggestions.

Branch 2020-2021 Directories

We will only deliver our Branch 2020-2021 directories electronically this year due to COVID-19.



Vote In-Person

On **November 3**, 6 am to 7 pm, we will vote for:

- The **President and Vice-President** of the **United States**;
- One **US Senator**;
- Our **district's Congressional Representative**;
- **Constitutional amendments** (*one regarding redistricting will be described in next month's newsletter*); and
- A **bond referendum**.

Make a Plan for the November General Election

- **Vote In-Person: November 3, 2020, 6 am to 7 pm**
- **Absentee Ballots Available: September 18, 2020**
- **Vote Early/Absentee In-Person** (various locations)
 - **Office of Elections: September 18 to October 31, 2020**
 - **McLean Government Center: October 14 to October 31, 2020**
- **Register to Vote Deadline: October 13, 2020**
- **Mail-In Absentee Ballot Request Deadline: October 23, 2020, 5 pm**
- **Mail-In Absentee Ballot Return Deadline**
 - **In-Person at Registrar's Office: November 3, 2020, 7 pm**
 - **By Mail: Postmarked On or Before November 3, 2020 and received by the Registrar November 6, Noon**
- **Drop Box: Proposal Pending**



Act early! The Elections Office will be very busy!

Vote Early/Absentee In-Person

September 18: Early/absentee voting in-person begins at the **Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.**

October 14: Early/absentee voting in-person becomes available at the **McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean.** Visit the Fairfax County Satellite website for [other locations](#). These locations are currently proposed to be open weekdays 1 to 7 pm, and Saturdays 9 am to 5 pm.

October 31: Final day to vote early/absentee, In-Person, 5 pm. You do not need a reason or fill out an application to vote early in person but are required to present an acceptable ID. Visit www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/in-person-voting for a list of acceptable IDs. Curbside voting is available upon request.

Vote Absentee By Mail

Apply by mail, email or fax **before October 23** for the mail application form. Return to the registrar's office by mail, fax or scanned attachment to an email. You will receive your actual ballot in the mail, starting 45 days prior to the election date. Complete and **return your ballot** to the **registrar by 7 pm on Election Day. If mailing, your ballot must be postmarked on or before election day and received by the registrar by noon the third day after election.**

- Ensure you provide any supporting documentation required.
- You do not need a witnessed signature.
- You can still vote in person if you receive, but do not return an Absentee ballot. Bring the ballot to the polls where official with void it.

For more information, go to the [Virginia Department of Elections](http://www.elections.virginia.gov) website.



(Continued from page 5)



Virginia Department of Elections Citizen Portal

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

Register to vote, update your current Virginia voter registration, apply to vote absentee by mail, or view your polling place, election district, absentee ballot status, and voting history.

Election Alert

From the Virginia Department of Elections recently – “The Center for Voter Information recently mailed absentee ballot applications to Virginia residents. The Virginia Department of Elections has no affiliation with this group. Voters in multiple localities that received an absentee ballot application were given pre—paid return envelopes addressed to the incorrect registrar’s office. The Virginia Department of Elections encourages all voters that would like to receive an absentee ballot to apply electronically to our website www.elections.virginia.gov/moterinformation.” **Discard the erroneous application and envelope.**

Election Action

If you want to get involved with the election activities, the **League of Women Voters** website has good voting information and several options for helping with the **Get Out the Vote** activities. <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>



News from AAUW

Black women working full-time were only paid 62 cents for every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men, meaning it takes more than seven additional months to equal their counterpart’s pay for the previous year. This marked August 13 as the date that Black women must work into the new year to reach equal pay to a salary earned by white, non-Hispanic men the previous year. As the country battles the COVID-19 crisis, Black women have even less economic security to sustain them, and many are on the work and home frontlines.

In June, AAUW distributed the following press release: “AAUW joins the country in mourning the losses of **George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor** and countless other people of color who have been unjustly killed across our nation. Our country needs healing. But healing will only come with justice. As an organization we condemn racism. Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S. and today’s injustices mirror our shameful history. On behalf of our 170,000 members and supporters, we commit to fighting for justice, long-term and lasting change, and we stand in solidarity against racism. We also acknowledge that as an organization we have our own work. As a member of the Leadership conference on Civil and Human Rights, we will work to advance the policies and system changes identified in the New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe and Effective Community Policing and Vision for Justice platform.”

News from Richmond

Newly passed legislation includes no-excuse in-person voting, new ethical standards, and licensing for student loan servicing companies. In the special session toward the end of August, Virginia House Democrats will propose a ban on police chokeholds and no-knock warrants, as well as prohibit sexual relations between officers and arrestees. Other proposals include requiring officers to report and intervene in misconduct by a fellow officer and strengthen vetting before officers are hired and eliminate qualified immunity.

AAUW'S History of Equity and Inclusion

AAUW has been actively working for equity and equal rights for women for more than 100 years. It was founded for the express purpose of fighting for women's equal access to education, especially higher education. Following are some significant efforts from our amazing past:

- 1921 lobbied for independent citizenship for married women;
- 1922 lobbied for access to contraceptives for married women;
- 1922 advocated to allow women in the diplomatic service;
- 1935 lobbied to legalize the dispensing of contraceptive information by physicians;
- 1942 created a refugee aid fund for Jewish women refugees from Germany and other Nazi-held countries; helped Jewish women professors who had been fired find positions in the U.S.;
- 1949 amended the national bylaws to clearly state all college women graduates were entitled to membership regardless of race or religion—16 years before the Civil Rights Act. (AAUW never prevented anyone from joining, but it became clear some branches were refusing membership to women of color. The bylaws were amended to make it clear branches could not do that.);
- 1962 established the African Educators Program that for almost 20 years gave African women educators, primarily high school teachers, professional development opportunities in the U.S. to address the shortage of teachers in Africa. Branches in the U.S. hosted these women;
- 1965 lobbied for passage of the Civil Rights Act;
- 1969 created the Coretta Scott King Fund to support opportunities for Black women to study African American history and culture;
- 1969 began lobbying for a woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court;
- 1972 instrumental in the passage of Title IX, co-authored by Patsy Mink of Hawaii, an AAUW member;
- 1987 admitted men to membership (first proposed in 1979);
- 1988 appointed a Diversity Chair to the national Board with a committee of diverse members;
- 1989 adopted AAUW's Diversity Statement: "AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

All national, state, and branch publications must include this statement. (Later wording added gender identity, geographical location, and socioeconomic status and changed "creed" to "religious beliefs.");

- 1991 initiated the AAUW Initiative for Educational Equity with *Shortchanging Girls/ Shortchanging America*, which was followed throughout the 90's and into this century by researched publications on bullying in schools, gender equity in STEM, discrimination in higher ed tenure, and 2015's *Bias and Barriers: Women in Leadership*;
- 1993 after seven years of lobbying and support, the Family & Medical Leave passed; and
- The more recent years have seen continuous work on equal pay and benefits for all women, eliminating discrimination in higher ed and the workplace, and women's success in STEM fields. Today 2/3 of fellows and grant recipients are diverse, as is 52% of the national staff.

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.

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**. It is user friendly. Below are some tips/reminders on using **ZOOM**.

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 for to seeing you at **ZOOM** meetings.

Photo Gallery: Current Events

Current Events Special Interest Group continues via ZOOM! Reed Isbell led the August 25, 2020 discussions on women who worked to establish the right to vote and women, past and present, who have made a difference.



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

Special Interest Groups | September

Bridge Group The Bridge Group probably will not meet face-to-face again until sometime in 2021. In the meantime, we may arrange to have members of the group play some bridge online, date, and time to be announced.

Current Events Current Events will meet on **Tuesdays, September 8 and 22, at 9:30 am.** All members are invited to bring your favorite news item to discuss. If you want to participate for the first time, send your email address to **Mary Lou Melley** (maryloumelley@gmail.com). An email reminder will be sent a few days prior to the meeting and a follow up sent the day before the meeting with the link to participate.

Morning Lit Group The Morning Literature Group is meeting **Friday, September 11 at 10:00 am** to discuss *All the King's Men*, by **Robert Penn Warren**. The discussion will be led by Betty Clark. If you plan to attend the meeting, contact **Betsy Reddaway**, pbreddaway@verizon.net, All are welcome.

Great Decisions Great Decisions will hold its final meeting for this session on **Tuesday, September 15, at 9:30 am.** The discussion will be on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. The next session will begin in **February 2021**. If you plan to participate in the next session, notify **Angela Ehemann** at Acnhemann@verizon.net or 703-893-3578, no later than **October 1**, so you can be included in the discounted book order. New members are also welcomed to participate in the final session, just let Angela know in advance.


Evening Lit Group The Evening Literature Group will meet **Monday, September 21 at 7:30 pm.** The book to be discussed is *How to be an Anti-Racist* by **Ibram X. Kendi**. The discussion will be led by Lynne Glikbarg. Anyone interested in participating in the meeting, please contact **Lynne Glikbarg** at lynneglik@aol.com.

Connections Calendar | September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	9 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	10	11 Morning Lit Group, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	12
13	14	15 Great Decisions, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	16	17	18 Early/Absentee Voting In-Person begins, Office of Elections, Fairfax	19
20 Branch Meeting, 2:00 pm, via ZOOM	21 Evening Lit Group, 7:30 pm, via ZOOM	22 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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.



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)



**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