



McLean Area Branch  
AAUW of Virginia

# News

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## Branch Website

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

October 2021  
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## Northern District Meeting

“How to make Diversity an Action and not just a Thought”

Saturday, October 9, 2021  
10:00 am – Noon  
via ZOOM

**Meg Tuccillo** of the Arlington Branch will present a video from **Jada Pinkett Smith's** “Red Table Talk” program on relations between women of color and white women. After the video, attendees will participate in a facilitated discussion using break-out rooms and then reconvene to discuss.

After the program, State Board members will provide updates including information on the revised “Shape the Future” membership discount and how branches can use it to increase membership. A representative from each branch will provide a short update on upcoming branch activities and announce any special programs to which others are invited.

Information on registration and ZOOM link to follow.

## Branch Board Meeting: October

Wednesday, October 13  
10:00 am - noon  
Via ZOOM

A meeting agenda and link will be sent to board members in advance.

## 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.

You can find many useful resources on our state website: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/diversity-inclusion-equity/>.

## Presidents' Message

At some point, every organization finds itself sitting at a crossroads. **Kim Churches**, former CEO of National AAUW, faced such a situation when she came on board. She confronted a national membership that was aging, declining significantly, and far from diverse. **Churches** encountered "mission creep." She faced several difficult financial issues, and the organization lacked some critical partners who could garner resources and provide legislative heft.

We, too, as a Branch find ourselves sitting at a crossroads. We face a declining, aging, and far from diverse membership. Sixteen members chose not to renew their membership. We have better aligned our programs to our mission, but struggle with low attendance. And we have not in a concerted way found partners who share our mission and can provide resources for new or expanded activities

So, what do we do? **Kim Churches** gave us the template. She had laser focus on three areas: Economic Security for women at all stages and walks of life; Education Equity, particularly in STEM; and Women in Leadership. She developed, expanded, and branded programs like Work Start and Work Smart that offered a younger demographic of women real tools for closing the gender pay gap. **Churches** sought partnership with companies and organizations that increased diversity and perspectives as well as brought fiscal and non-partisan political clout.

Our board, with your good ideas and help, is excited to take on the challenge of revitalizing our Branch. First, we have appointed co-chairs for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) after our membership approved the change in our by-laws. They have a big job to do recommending how we increase our membership diversity and the impact of our philanthropy and programs. Co-chairs of other functions are also being asked to consider how we might make up to a couple of changes, add new activities, and find new partners to expand our reach and impact on behalf of women and girls in our community. For example, do we host networking events for younger women in the workforce who have used their new salary negotiation skills? Do we partner with the Chamber of Commerce to do so? How might we expand our impact in STEM education? No idea or suggestion will be off the table.

Over the course of the next several years, each of you will be asked to participate in this work by offering ideas, time, and energy so our McLean Branch moves beyond **Sitting at a Crossroads**.



**Sue Christie and Naz Basit,  
Branch Co-Presidents**

## STEM Award Recipient Honored at Branch Event

One of the six female high school students who received STEM Achievement Awards in 2021 participated and was recognized in the September 19, 2021, Branch event on Zoom.

**Shown are: first row, Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales, liaison for McLean High School; second row, from left, Nina McVeigh, liaison for Langley High School; and Alex Vasilcoiu, recipient of the 2021 Computer Science Achievement Award at McLean High School, with her parents Cornelia and Dan Vasilcoiu.**



## Membership

Welcome two new members to our Branch:

- **Beth Cooper** is a retired Fairfax County Public Schools English and English as a Second Language teacher. Beth has contributed to the Branch book sale for years and hopes to be able to participate in future book sales.
- **Jill Stryker**, originally from Wisconsin, has lived in Northern Virginia for 53 years. She began her career as an educator teaching history and then English as a Second language for Fairfax County Public Schools.

## 2021 McLean Area Branch AAUW Fundraiser

The new **FINAL** total for our fundraiser is **\$21,908.17**. This reflects the subtraction of the GoFundMe service charge. Proceeds will be equally divided between AAUW Funds and our local scholarships for women returning to college. The owners of the National's memorabilia signed by **Max Scherzer** are shown below.



Top row, from left to right, Phyllis Yoshida, Maureen Stratford, and Fran Pearce.

Bottom row, from left to right, Becky and Jim Kilbourne, Casey Scott Laxton, and Marion Kettering.

Center, autographed National's memorabilia signed by Max Scherzer.

Not pictured, Gail Scott-Parizer.

Congrats to all, especially to our Branch member, **Fran Pearce**.

**And many thanks to Erica and Max Scherzer for their ongoing support!**

## AAUW Funds

Each of you decided to belong to AAUW, an organization that began in 1881 for the advancement of women, now, 140 years and counting. What did this organization accomplish this past year to meet this Mission:

### ***AAUW Advances Equity For Women And Girls Through Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy, And Research***

- **30,000** people participated in **35** free AAUW webinars featuring career tips, advice on activism, interviews with thought leaders and other educational offerings.
- **29** minority-serving institutions, including **18** Historically Black Colleges and Universities now offer AAUW Start Smart training, raising the number of hosting institutions to **142**.
- **\$3.6 million** was awarded to more than **200** recipients for the 2020-2021 academic year with the goal of advancing educational opportunities for women around the globe.
- **62,400** letters were sent to elected officials urging immediate action on COVID relief, paid leave benefits, voter access, and other key AAUW public policy priorities.
- **Five** cases AAUW supports to fight workplace discrimination, Title IX violations, and pay inequity.
- **180,167** women have been trained in salary negotiation skills through Work Smart and Start Smart programs to date.
- **227** media outlets have featured AAUW's work in 2020, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report*, NBC News, and more.
- **260** Fellowships and Grants totaling **\$5** million have been given to women and community projects for the 2021-22 academic year.
- **One** new learning community launched: AAUW's Equity Network offers leadership training to early- and mid-career participants who are committed to social justice. Members and supporters bolstering our mission of advancing women and girls in research, education, and advocacy.

The funds raised by McLean Area AAUW for this year will now be assigned by the Branch's Allocations Committee. The Committee will meet in October to determine funds distribution. It will make recommendations and forward a report to the Branch Board for review before it is sent to the Branch members for approval.

**Elaine A. Lailas and Janet Taylor, AAUW Funds Co-Chairs**

## Connect with the Branch on Social Media!

Our Branch is on Facebook and Instagram. Find us using [username@aauwmclna](https://www.facebook.com/aauwmclna) or these links:

[fb.me/aauwmclna](https://fb.me/aauwmclna)

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

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





This year, **every STATE elected office is up for election**; therefore, **every vote is important**. While AAUW is a non-partisan organization, it does encourage members to vote for the candidate who is aligned with AAUW’s priorities. AAUW National issued the following statement.



AAUW’s public policy agenda describes expanding and protecting the right to vote as **foundational because** having the right to vote is a prerequisite to establishing all other policies that AAUW advocates.

Please go to [www.AAUW.org/issues](http://www.AAUW.org/issues) for other priorities.

Below are dates to remember for this voting season.

- **October 12, 5 p.m.** Deadline to register to vote or update registration (in person or receipt by mail)
- **October 12, 11:59 p.m.** Deadline to register to vote or update registration (online)
- **October 22, 5 p.m.** Deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail
- **October 30, 5 p.m.** Deadline for early in-person voting at your local registrar
- **November 2** Deadline for postmark on absentee ballot submitted by mail November 2, **6 a.m. - 7 p.m.** Election Day Voting at assigned polling places
- **November 2, 7 p.m.** Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot delivered in person
- **November 5, 12 p.m.** Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot mailed to registrar

If you need your voter information, including your Virginia state senate district, your Virginia state delegate district or your voting precinct, go to:

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

If you need help, email **Carol Mournighan** at [clmourn@gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com).

Names of the state delegates and state senators can be found on the McLean AAUW website:

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

**Carol Mournighan and Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Co-Chairs**

## 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.

**All scheduled Special Interest Group meetings will be conducted via ZOOM *except the Bridge Group.***

## Special Interest Groups | October

**Morning Lit Group** The Morning Literature Group is meeting **Friday, October 8 at 10:00 am** to discuss *The Pull of the Stars*, by **Emma Donoghue**. **Carol Mournighan** will lead the discussion. If you would like to attend and are not a regular member, contact **Betsy Reddaway**, [pbreddaway at verizon.net](mailto:pbreddaway@verizon.net). All are welcome.

**Bridge Group** Members of the Bridge Group are planning to meet on **Monday, October 11** from **10:00 am - 2:00 pm**, at the **McLean House, 6800 Fleetwood Road, McLean**. New members are welcomed. Contact **Barbara Carr** 703.356.3127 for information. **Full vaccination for Covid 19 required for participation in the Bridge Group.**

**Current Events** Current Events will meet on the second and fourth **Tuesday October 12 and 26 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** at [maryloumelley at gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Evening Lit Group** The Evening Literature Group will meet **Monday, October 18 at 7:30 pm** to discuss *Caleb's Crossing*, by **Geraldine Brook**. **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** will lead the discussion. If you are not a regular attendee and are interested in attending contact **Myrtle** at [myrtlehecor at gmail.com](mailto:myrtlehecor@gmail.com). All are welcome.

**Great Decisions** Great Decisions is taking a break until February when the new session starts. Contact **Angela Ehemann**, [acehemann at verizon.net](mailto:acehemann@verizon.net) or 703.893.3578 if you wish to join the group next year. Deadline for ordering the discounted book is **October 13**. Details for the next meeting will be in the January newsletter.

# Connections Calendar | October

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

## 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**

**Myrtle Hendicks-Corrales  
703.973.0925**

**Diana Parsell  
703.297.9893**

**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](http://www.AAUW.org)**