



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

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Branch Website

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

March 2022
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Number 6

March Branch/Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2022
6:30 – 8:30 pm
Via **zoom**

This month's Branch meeting will feature a presentation by the first-place winner of the local high school STEM essay contest.

Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales will send an email with the **ZOOM** ID and password to all McLean Branch members and guests.

Branch Board Meeting: March

Wednesday, March 9
10:00 am
Via **zoom**

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

Presidents' Message

When talk turns to strategic planning, you can see eyes glaze over and the polite stifling of a yawn or even hear a quiet, "I just came for the donuts." Really, strategic planning sounds so bureaucratic and, frankly, boring. What, then, if we think of it as a statement of commitment and the basis of accountability for any organization, our Branch included?

AAUW has a wonderful vision, mission, and set of values. But those are just words. A strategic plan turns those words into actions.

It starts with the desired outcomes in mind. The strategic plan then details the actions, activities, and effort an organization will take to achieve those outcomes or the desired impact. It provides the answer to the bottom-line question of: Are we achieving the best outcomes, having the most impact for the resources expended? Business calls this return on investment. Colloquially, it is called getting the most bang for your buck.

Your board will be asking this question as we update and/or revise our strategic plan. We will request you join us in this effort to solicit your input on priorities, new activities, and willingness to recommit your time, energy, and passion as we emerge into a new normal.



Sue Christie and Naz Basit, Branch Co-Presidents

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Presidents' Message

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We will ask each of our standing committees to consider and ponder the following questions without pre-judging the answers. For the bureaucrats reading this, these are not in order of priority, are not all inclusive nor mutually exclusive.

- Do we have the right mix of activities to attract a membership that is committed, willing and able to advance equity for girls and women into the next decade; that is, what do we offer a new generation of women who do not “do” brick and mortar programs or activities?
- What programs do we develop or sponsor that may become as eagerly awaited in our community as our book sale has been? What if, for example, we focused intensely on financial literacy both for retirees and new young workers in our community?
- What “products,” if any, do we offer to brand AAUW McLean Branch? National clearly homed in on Start Smart and Work Smart to brand AAUW for a younger demographic.
- What should be our philanthropic approach? Are there activities that increase the number of women and girls we can impact? Do we change our criteria for university scholarships to support greater diversity and need in recipients?
- What policies should we focus on and at what governmental level? What would it take, as an example, to increase the number of women in our community that get paid family leave?
- What are the activities that sustain our own relationships and energy to do the hard work of change? For example, the Branch added a nighttime book club so our members who work could still build friendships.

Depending on your responses, we may decide to change not a thing; we may find just a tweak or two materially increases the impact we are having; we may find we cannot sustain a current activity; or we need to make a major investment in something brand new.

You have an incredibly committed board working hard to ensure that our Branch stays relevant and vibrant into the next decade. The work of leveling the playing field for girls and women is certainly not for the faint-hearted. We hope you will participate when called upon.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers to be voted on at the Annual Meeting this month:

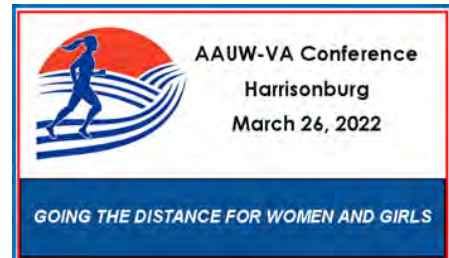
- **Co-President - Anita Booth**
- **Co-Vice President Programs - Christina Hamilton**
- **Treasurer - Lynne Glikbarg**
- **Board Secretary - Phillis Provenzano**
- **Branch Secretary - Vacant**

Membership

It is membership renewal time. You may renew online, or by check **starting March 16**. Branch treasurer, **Lynne Glikbarg**, will send an invoice in the next several weeks with a link to the National site and all the information you will need to renew. Your membership continues the Branch support for women returning to college and the opportunity to participate in outstanding Branch programs.

Virginia State Conference

Plan to Attend the 2022 Virginia State Conference—
This Year in **Two Parts**



Part 1

Saturday, March 26, 2022

9:30 am to 5:00 pm

In-Person Event

Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, James Madison University
Harrisonburg, VA

You will hear from and be able to question informed and inspiring speakers on AAUW mission-related topics that support the theme of *Going the Distance for Women and Girls*. The conclusion of the program will provide an opportunity for the four state Districts to convene and elect representatives to the State Board for 2022-2024.

Details regarding speakers and hotel registration for Friday night may be found in the [2022 Conference Brochure](#).

Part 1 Registration Information - The AAUW-VA State Board is pleased to announce that because operating budget costs were lower between March 2020 and now, due to the pandemic, we are returning some of the unspent funds to members in the form of a lower conference registration fee, which includes morning beverages and lunch. **The registration deadline is March 11.**

- **AAUW of Virginia Members** \$25.00 *until March 4* (\$30 *March 5 -11*)
- **Students** \$30.00*
- **Other Non-AAUW of Virginia Attendees** \$35.00

*Branches may consider sponsoring the attendance of students from college/ university partners with whom they interface.

REGISTER ONLINE [HERE](#) FOR PART 1

For those who want to register using "snail mail," please use the form following the Harrisonburg tourism information in [the 2022 Conference Brochure](#).

Part 2

The AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting will be held

Saturday, April 30 2022

Starting Time To Be Determined

Via **zoom**

AAUW Funds

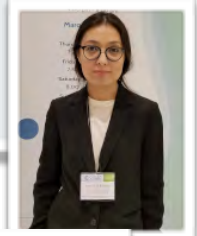
2021-2022 McLean Branch Fellowship and Grant Recipients

The AAUW McLean Area Branch endowed:

- Two Fellowships — International and American
- Two Grants — Career Development and Community Action

We are pleased to announce the 2021-2022 recipients below.

International Fellow, Ariunsanaa Bagaasjav, from Mongolia, is a Ph.D. candidate in social welfare at City University of New York, Graduate Center, with research on Critical Gerontology that focuses on elder abuse and neglect in Mongolia.



American Fellow, Dhymy Vixamar-Owens, Ph.D. from Washington, DC, is studying Health Psychology, at the University of the District of Columbia, exploring Diabetes Risk Awareness.



Career Development Grant/Community Action Grant recipient, Alexandria Ashe, is pursuing her Master of Public Health degree and studying Social Sciences in Public Health at Virginia Commonwealth University, focusing on health disparities for African American women.



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

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/>.

Connect with the Branch on Social Media!

Our Branch is on Facebook and Instagram. Find us using [username@aauwmclna](#) or these links:

<fb.me/aauwmclna>

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

Grace Hamilton, Branch
Social Media Chair





The **Public Policy Committee** is open to all Branch members. The next meeting will be on **zoom March 2, 2022, at 2:00 pm**. If you would like to join the meeting, contact Mary Lou Melley at maryloumelley@aol.com, and she will send you the link. ***The committee plans to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm.***

Virginia

Many low wage workers in Virginia live paycheck to paycheck. When there is a personal crisis, they must choose between taking time off or getting paid. **Senator Barbara Favola** has introduced a bill to help support these workers, which is cosponsored by **Senator Jennifer Boyco**.

Senator Favola's bill, SB 15, seeks to establish paid family leave as a class of private insurance provided to an employee to cover income loss due to several circumstances, including the birth or adoption of a child and care of a family member who has a serious health condition. This bill is necessary because current Virginia policy does not permit the sale of family leave insurance by a private insurer. SB 15 passed the Senate February 8, 2022, with a vote of 37-2-1.

Delegate Kathy Byron introduced a companion bill in the House, HB1156, that passed February 10, 2022, with a vote of 99-0. The bill has now been sent to the Senate Finance & Labor Committee for reconciliation.

Act

Members should contact elected officials on these two committees to tell them you are in favor of these compatible bills. ***You may cut and paste the following for your emails:***

*As your constituent, I am (sending this *letter/email/calling you*) on behalf of myself and the more than 1,000 members of the American Association of University Women in 24 branches in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to urge your support for (SB 15) (HB 1156) that will establish paid family leave as a class of insurance.

AAUW of Virginia is committed to achieving equity for women and girls and creating a secure economic future for all Virginians. At some point, most workers will need time away from work to deal with a serious personal or family illness or to care for a new child. The situation becomes more acute for those individuals in the "sandwich" generation, who frequently care for both aging parents and children. The COVID pandemic has only worsened the situation, especially for working women who are already disadvantaged by the gender pay gap and cannot afford to lose pay while caring for a new baby, an aging parent or family members with COVID when they are forced to return to work prematurely. AAUW-VA strongly supports measures to make Paid Family Leave insurance available to employers and employees in Virginia. It is the right and necessary thing to do for Virginia's workers and their families. And it will go a long way to help businesses recruit and retain the workers they need.

Please Indicate If You Are a Constituent.

Senator Barbara Favola's Email:
District31@Senate.Virginia.Gov
 Or you can go to her website:
[Https://Barbarafavola.Org/Contact](https://Barbarafavola.Org/Contact)

Delegate Kathy Byron's Email:
Delkbyron@House.Virginia.Gov

For more information, please go to:

https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2022/01/AAUW-VA-paid-sick-leave-fact-sheet-2022-ver_1.pdf

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Federal

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In Congress, legislative work and action continues. A review of some issues important to AAUW follows:

AAUW’s Biennial Priorities include the guarantee of equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society. We, as members, therefore, advocate vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights.

Bad News: The Supreme Court has restored the Alabama voting map that the lower court ruled disadvantaged Black voters. The vote was 5 to 4.

Reminder: The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin... The Act prohibited discrimination in public accommodations and federally funded programs. It also strengthened the enforcement of voting rights and the desegregation of schools.

Bad News: The Voting Rights bill of 2021 and the John L. Lewis Voting Rights Bill failed to pass the Senate recently. They had proposed to update and improve the 1964 Act.

Reminder: AAUW's Biennial priorities also include greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance, including equality and affordable dependent care and paid family, medical and sick leave.

Good news: The \$19 trillion Covid relief deal included monetary relief for people of low income and for small businesses during the shutdown. The \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill provides transportation safety nationwide, new job opportunity for many, and money for manufacturers. The unemployment rate has dropped to 4.2 percent.

Bad news: Work remains for advocates and organizations to improve paid family, medical and sick leave as well as childcare in the current Congressional session.

Act

Go to AAUW.org and click on click Action. Contact your Senators and Delegates

- **Senator Mark Warner’s** email is warner.senate.gov
- **Senator Time Kaine’s** email is kaine.senate.gov
- **Delegate Don Beyer’s** email is beyer.house.gov
- **Delegate Jennifer Wexton’s** email is wexton.house.gov
- **Delegate Gerald Connolly’s** email is connolly.house.gov

Mary Lou Melley and Carol Mournighan, 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. 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 | March

Public Policy Committee **New**

The Public Policy Committee is open to all Branch members. The next meeting will be **March 2**, at **2:00 pm**. If you would like to join the meeting, contact **Mary Lou Melley** at [maryloumelley at gmail.com](mailto:maryloumelley@gmail.com), and she will send you the link. The committee plans to meet on the **first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm**.

Current Events

Current Events will meet on the second **Tuesday March 8**, at **9:30 am**. All members are invited to bring their 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.

Morning Lit Group

The Morning Literature Group will meet on **Friday, March 11**, at **10:00 am** to discuss *The Plot*, by **Jean Hanff Korelitz**. **Marge Degnon** will lead the discussion. If you would like to attend and are not a regular member, contact **Betsy Reddaway**, [pbrreddaway at verizon.net](mailto:pbrreddaway@verizon.net). All are welcome.

Bridge Group

The Bridge Group will meet **Monday, March 14**, at a time to be determined, at a member's home if the pandemic continues to ease. If you are interested in joining the group, contact **Barbara Carr**, [barbaracarr at msn.com](mailto:barbaracarr@msn.com) or 703.356.3127 for information. **Full vaccination for Covid 19 required for participation in the Bridge Group.**

Great Decisions Great Decisions will meet on **Tuesday, March 15**, at **9:30 am**. The topic is **Chapter two**, on the **Renewed Climate Change Agenda**. All are welcome to participate in the discussion. If you need to acquire the book, please contact **Angela Ehemann**, [acehemann at verizon.net](mailto:acehemann@verizon.net) or 703.893.3578.

Evening Lit Group

The Evening Literature Group will meet on **Monday, March 21**, at **7:30 pm** to discuss *Klara and the Sun*, by **Kazuo Ishiguro**. **Lynne Glikbarg** will lead the discussion. Anyone interested in participating should contact **Lynne Glikbarg** at [lynneglik at aol.com](mailto:lynneglik@aol.com) for further information. The group welcomes all interested branch members.

Connections Calendar | March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Public Policy Committee, 2:00 pm, via zoom	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 Bridge Group, (Tentative), <i>Logistics TBD</i>	15 Great Decisions, 9:30 am, via zoom --- Branch/Annual Business Meeting, 6:30 pm, via zoom	16	17	18	19
20	21 Evening Lit Group, 7:30 pm, via zoom	22	23	24	25	26 Virginia State AAUW Conference 9:30 am, Harrisonburg
27	28					

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**

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

AAUW Website | www.AAUW.org