



McLean Area Branch  
AAUW of Virginia

# News

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## Branch Website

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

May 2022  
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## May Luncheon and Branch Meeting

Saturday, May 7, 2022  
11:30 am – 2:00 pm  
Riverbend Club  
375 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA 22066

The annual May luncheon and Branch meeting speaker, Virginia State **Senator Barbara Favola**, will highlight the Branch theme for the year, **Equity: The Status of Women and Minorities**. **Senator Favola** is a strong advocate on issues important to children, families, wage-earners, and the environment. She has been a member of the Senate since 2012, and McLean is in her congressional district. **Senator Favola** chairs the Rehabilitation and state's Social Services Committee and serves on other state committees. **A social time will begin at 11:30 am with lunch served at 1:00 pm.**



## Branch Board Meeting: May

Wednesday, May 11  
10:00 am  
McLean Community Center  
Board meetings are open to all Branch members.

## Memorial Service: Robert Alden



We sadly lost a dear member and friend of AAUW McLean Area Branch, **Bob Alden**, in June 2020 and honored him in our September newsletter that year. **Bob** was an active and supportive member of our Branch for many years, together with his wife **Diane**. While both served as Branch presidents, **Bob** was our only male Branch member who held the title. A memorial service will take place to celebrate his life:

Saturday, June 4  
2:00 pm  
Lewinsville Presbyterian Church  
1724 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean, VA

## Presidents' Message

Reflections on the past two years:

It was the greatest honor to serve as your co-president for the last two years. As I near the end of my term, I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to play a leadership role in the most trying of times.

During the pandemic, we went through one of the most difficult and stressful moments of our lives. For some it led to a personal loss and for others it was a loss of friends' meet ups, family get togethers as well as economic and business losses and more. For our Branch, it was the loss of in person meetings and many of the Branch's activities. The biggest loss was our Annual Used Book Sale, our most important community outreach event.

The pandemic, on the other hand, has also given us the opportunity to reflect on where our Branch stands with its Mission and Goals. Cancellation of our Book Sale has taught us to look for other alternate fundraising opportunities. Social media forums like Zoom have allowed our Branch to continue with daily business and programs.

The pandemic has also given us time to revise and redo some of the Branch's policies and bylaws. We established a new Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee. We started a new scholarship outside of the DMV area in a historically Black all women's liberal arts college, two new Inclusion Awards for local High School students, and alternate fundraisers like Go Fund Me.

The generosity of our enthusiastic members helped us pull through the difficulties. We managed to give out women's scholarships as well as our endowed contributions. Currently, we are working on getting State recognition with the 5 Star Program.

Our achievements in a short span of time are surely remarkable to say the least. Through the efforts of our incredibly talented Board and our extremely dedicated leadership and members, I am confident our Branch is headed in the right direction and will continue to leave a lasting legacy for future members to follow.

**Naz Basit**  
Branch Co-President



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

## Membership

### *Welcome new members to our Branch*

#### **Amina Sarraf**

**Amina Sarraf** moved to Great Falls in 2015 by way of Los Angeles, CA, Boulder, CO, Potomac, MD, and Houston, TX. She has a BA from Loyola Marymount University and an MFA from American University. She works at nutritional supplements company Healthy Directions. For many years she has volunteered to teach religious education to children and is a committee member for Cub Scouts Pack 55. **Amina** loves writing, reading (books are her favorite, tell her what you have read that is great!), traveling and is a hippie mom to her 10-year-old. She has already attended an Evening Lit group meeting and is excited to join AAUW.

## Membership Renewal

It is membership renewal time. In a few weeks, information on the renewal process will be sent to members in a special email.

## DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Committee

In the February Newsletter, we introduced the membership to the creation of an award to be given to juniors at McLean and Langley High Schools in recognition of their efforts to promote inclusion within their schools. Flyers and applications forms were distributed to the two high schools introducing the award. We were delighted that five students applied for the award, two from McLean High School and three from Langley High School. Members of the DEI Committee served as judges. **Olivia Zhang** is the awardee for McLean and **Talia-Rose Diorio** for Langley. We will honor both young women at our May luncheon. They are excited to tell us how they made a difference in their respective schools. Their mothers will attend as well.

The committee has been working on program ideas that might be of interest to our entire membership and welcome any suggestions you might have for us. We are also looking for suggestions of organizations the AAUW McLean Area Branch could partner with in the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and other shared goals. Contact us with your ideas. The committee's next meeting is

**June 2 at 3 pm via zoom**

All are welcome to attend. Contact **Barbara Sipe** at [bfs4000 at aol.com](mailto:bfs4000@aol.com) to receive the Zoom link.

**Ruth Nowjack-Raymer and Barbara Sipe**  
Co-chairs, DEI Committee

## 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/>.



## Virginia

Be aware that you may not be in the same congressional district that you were for the last congressional election. Most of our members will now be either in Virginia's 8th District (if you are inside the beltway) or the 11th District (if you are outside the beltway). Some exceptions exist, check to see what your congressional district is so you are knowledgeable about

the candidates and the issues.

Your state delegates and senators may have also changed, but we will not be voting for them until November 2023. (This may be subject to change depending on the outcome of a lawsuit.)

Virginia Gov. **Glenn Youngkin** announced Monday that he had signed 700 bills into law, amended 100-plus other bills, and vetoed 25 bills. Among the 700 bills he signed was **Barbara Favola's** SB15 which establishes family leave insurance as a class of insurance. The bill defines "family leave insurance" as an insurance policy issued to an employer related to a benefit program provided to an employee to pay for the employee's income loss due to (i) the birth of a child or adoption of a child by the employee; (ii) placement of a child with the employee for foster care; (iii) care of a family member of the employee who has a serious health condition; or (iv) circumstances arising out of the fact that the employee's family member who is a service member is on active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty. This law allows entities that do business in Virginia to offer paid family leave.

Many thanks to all our members who supported this bill by contacting their state senator and delegate. Your action was invaluable.

The following link will provide you with a more inclusive list of the bills signed into law by the governor this April.

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?221+men+BIL>

What do you want to know about public policy? What we report in the newsletter are issues that we deem important to individual members or AAUW at large We want to hear what is important to you! Please feel free to email **Carol Mournighan** (clmourn at gmail.com) or **Mary Lou Melley** (maryloumelley at gmail.com).

## Congress

Nearly six months late, Congress passed a \$1.5 trillion spending bill to fund the federal government for the remainder of fiscal 2022, which ends Oct. 1. Lawmakers sent the omnibus bill to President **Joe Biden** on March 11, and he signed it into law March 15. The bill failed to include new funding for COVID relief expenses. Compared with other spending bills passed in recent years, the 2022 omnibus gives most agencies significant increases, however some far lower than those requested by the **Biden** administration. Since both houses of Congress will have only short sessions during April and May, there is little chance to make our voices heard in pending legislation important to us: Paycheck Fairness Act, Voting Rights Act, The Equal Pay Act and equity for women, overall, in education. Nevertheless, we can still email our elected officials on their website. They almost always reply in support of our issues.

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## Connect with the Branch on Social Media!

Our Branch is on Facebook and Instagram. Find us using [username@aauwmc1na](#) or these links:

[fb.me/aauwmc1na](https://fb.me/aauwmc1na)

<https://www.instagram.com/aauwmc1na/>

**Grace Hamilton, Branch Social Media Chair**





## November Elections

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On **June 21**, some members whose representative is **Don Beyer** will have the chance to vote in a primary. **Victoria Virasingh** is his Democratic opponent. In Virginia you do not have to be a registered Democrat to vote in this primary. The Republicans are having a convention in the summer to determine their candidates for the November Congressional elections.

Citizens may apply for absentee ballots by visiting <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>.

## Public Policy Committee

On April 4, 10 members met for the first time. **Lynne Glikbarg, Doris Shank, Mimi Gronlund, Beth Cooper, Myrtle-Hendricks-Corrales, Adriana Bianchi, Trianthe Dakolias,** and **Francie Fernald** met with committee co-chairs **Carol Mournighan** and **Mary Lou Melley**. The purpose of the committee is to give members the opportunity to express their issues with legislation and how can we take action on these issues with our elected officials or by joining with other organizations.

Issues of concerns to members include: ageism; race in our current culture; environment; public education; equity; voting accessibility; childcare; women's rights in foreign countries; media misinformation; women's pay equity in sports; and health care and gun legislations.

The next committee meeting to work on producing information about issues and actions available to us is:

**Monday, May 2, 2:00 pm**  
**Starnuts**  
**1445 Laughlin Ave, McLean VA 22101**

If you plan to attend, notify [clmourn at gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com) or [maryloumelley at gmail.com](mailto:maryloumelley@gmail.com).

**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](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 | May

### Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee is open to all Branch members. The next meeting will be **May 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.

### Bridge Group

The Bridge Group will meet **Monday, May 10**, 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**, [barbaralcarr at msn.com](mailto:barbaralcarr@msn.com) or 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 **Tuesday May 10**, 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, May 13**, at **10:00 am** to discuss ***The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*** by **Walter Isaacson**. **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer** 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. It is time for suggestions for next year's reading list. Please send suggestions to **Reed Isbell** [rwisbell at verizon.net](mailto:rwisbell@verizon.net) or **Betsy Reddaway**. Book selections will be made on **June 10**; we hope at a luncheon to be scheduled.

### Evening Lit Group

The Evening Literature Group will meet on **Monday, May 16**, at **7:30 pm** to discuss ***The Four Winds*** by **Kristin Hannah**. **Cheryl Williams** will lead the discussion. Anyone interested in participating should contact **Cheryl Williams** at [cherylswilliams at verizon.net](mailto:cherylswilliams@verizon.net) for further information. The group welcomes all interested branch members.

**Great Decisions** Great Decisions will meet on **Tuesday, May 17**, at **9:30 am**. The topic is **Chapter 4, Myanmar's Never-Ending Crisis**. It will be interesting to learn about the history and chaos in this country. 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.

# Connections Calendar | May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <b>Public Policy Committee,</b> 2:00 pm, <i>Logistics TBD</i>	3	4	5	6	7 <b>Spring Branch Luncheon,</b> 11:30 am, Riverbend
8	9 <b>Bridge Group, (Tentative),</b> <i>Logistics TBD</i>	10 <b>Current Events Group,</b> 9:30 am, via <b>zoom</b>	11 <b>Branch Board Meeting,</b> 10:00 am, via <b>zoom</b>	12	13 <b>Morning Lit Group,</b> 10:00 am, via <b>zoom</b>	14
15	16 <b>Evening Lit Group,</b> 7:30 pm, via <b>zoom</b>	17 <b>Great Decisions,</b> 9:30 am, via <b>zoom</b>	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	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)**