



Representing all of Anne Arundel County, Maryland
aauwmd-annearundelcountybranch.org

April 2014 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Pat Eggleston and Roxann King

Since our term as co-presidents of our branch ends in June, we are remembering the many great times we have had during the last two years while never forgetting to work to ensure equity for girls and women. We are devoting this letter to several initiatives we will be taking in the next several months.

First, we are proud to sponsor once again the opportunity for a local college woman to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This year's conference, held at College Park in June, features Chelsea Clinton as one of the speakers. Currently Vice Chair of the Clinton Foundation, Clinton brings her recent experience as both a student and a leader to the conference, not to mention the "minor" fact that virtually her entire life has been lived within the public policy arena.

"We believe that young people can and should be empowered to make a difference," Clinton said during her speech at the Clinton Global Initiative University 2013. "But that's not a truth universally acknowledged. There are a lot of people who believe that you have to wait until maybe your hair is a little more my father's color to make a difference. We couldn't disagree with that more strongly."

We couldn't be more pleased that our branch will enable a local woman, who in all likelihood still has decades to devote to making a difference in both a

professional and personal setting, to attend this conference as our guest. We will select a woman currently attending St. Johns College. We have assistance from the student activities director at the college in identifying a woman student leader.

For several years, we have supported attendance at the NCCWSL Conference by a student at Anne Arundel Community College. Last year the College paid the way for an additional student to attend. We are both so enthusiastic about this activity and its continuance that we are starting a voluntary fund to raise money for an additional student to go to NCCWSL this year, from the community college, to encourage the tradition. We are very fortunate to live so close to the College Park event that travel expense is not an issue. This conference is sponsored each year in early June in College Park by AAUW (see details at the AAUW website) and NASPA (student affairs administrators). The cost is minimal for participants: registration, including housing and meals, for the 3-day event is \$395. If you would like to help us fund an additional student to NCCWSL this year, send a check written to AAUW Anne Arundel County to our treasurer, Sharon Halligan, and indicate NCCWSL on the check. Sharon's address is: 2707 Summers Ridge Dr., Odenton, MD 21113. We hope to initiate a permanent voluntary fund for NCCWSL as part of our philanthropic activities. This award is not part of our scholarship funds.

Second, we would like to encourage that you attend and bring friends to our April meeting on Monday, April 14, at Wood's Church at 7 p.m. Many of you have expressed a desire for active community

service by our branch. This may be it: a really valuable service opportunity. The STAIRS program has proven very effective in increasing childhood literacy, which has far-reaching effects on citizenry and education. STAIRS provides training for volunteers and looks like a wonderful experience both for volunteers and for the children. Linda Barbour will share with us the wonderful results of this program and how to become involved with it. We hope that many of our members will be able to attend and that some will take the challenge and work with the STAIRS program. Finally, we wish to thank all of the members of the nominating committee for their hard work in identifying nominees for all of the open board positions for the coming branch elections. We also would like to thank the nominees for stepping forward. You will have a wonderful experience as board members.

Philanthropy is part of our Mission

Consider contributing to our educational awards funds:

- **AAUW Educational Opportunity Funds (EOF)** - national research grants
- **Anne Arundel Community College Transfer Scholarship Fund**
- **Women to Women Awards Fund** – local educational awards

Or support sending a woman student leader to the NCCWSL convention.

Funds from Member Donations, 2013-2014 to date:

EOF	\$404.50
Transfer Scholarships	\$414.50
Women to Women	\$335.50
NCCWSL	\$200.00

Send a check made out to AAUW Anne Arundel County to our treasurer, Sharon Halligan, 2707 Summers Ridge Dr., Odenton, MD 21113. If you have a favorite award fund, specify it when you send your check. Undesignated donations are distributed Women to Women, 50%; Transfer Scholarships, 25%; EOF, 25%.

**What’s New at AAUW
Empowering Women Since 1881**

Here is a representative sample of activities and issues from our national headquarters in Washington, DC.

D.C. Circuit Hears Arguments in Klay v. Panetta:

On February 14, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit heard arguments in Klay v. Panetta, a Legal Advocacy Fund-supported lawsuit brought by survivors of military sexual assault and litigated by attorney Susan Burke. The case was originally filed March 6, 2012, and AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman spoke at the accompanying National Press Club event. In the suit, the Klay plaintiffs allege that U.S. military officials tolerated sexual predators in their ranks and antagonized service members who reported rape, sexual assault, and harassment. The plaintiffs argue that this culture of sexual assault violates their constitutional rights. In early 2013, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted the defendants’ motion to dismiss the case. The court held that the plaintiffs’ injuries were “incident to their military service” and that the court was prevented by legal precedent from ruling on a military matter. Burke then appealed to the D.C. Circuit. Stay tuned for the appeals court’s ruling.

Supreme Court Hears Arguments in McCullen v. Coakley:

On January 15, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in McCullen v. Coakley, a case testing the constitutionality of buffer zones around reproductive health care clinics. Anti-choice activists filed suit against Massachusetts to challenge a state law designed to protect clinic patients from intimidation and harassment. The law creates a 35-foot buffer zone around reproductive health care clinics that only patients, employees, and their agents may enter, preventing anti-choice protesters from approaching patients as they enter the clinic. The plaintiffs argue that the law violates their free speech rights, claiming that they are constitutionally entitled to approach patients to offer anti-choice literature and anti-choice counseling. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit upheld the law,

and the plaintiffs appealed to the Supreme Court. AAUW signed on to an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to uphold the law. We discussed McCullen and its potential impact on the rights of women and girls during our Supreme Court call last October. As mentioned then, McCullen tests the strength of a case from 2000 in which the Supreme Court upheld a different buffer-zone law. However, since that decision, the makeup of the court has changed significantly — there are four new justices — and the buffer zone mandated by the Massachusetts law is significantly larger than the buffer zone upheld in the 2000 decision. Look for LAF's analysis of the court's ruling later this year.

Book Sale Chairs: Stacy Hilder and Roxann King (and Rita Strom will be happy to help them.)

Thank you to the whole Nominating Committee for the brainstorming and help!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Kay Monk and Dot Gibson



At our March 10th branch meeting, members and guests listened to Fahima Vorgetts, director of the Afghan Women's Fund, describe the lives and needs of the Afghan women.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Pat Strott-Wheatley

We have successfully completed what is necessary to have a ballot for our Branch members:

Co-Presidents: Mary McGrath and Gail Viamonte

Program Co-Veeps: Cheryl Menke (will plan meeting programs and Cocktails and Convos)

Kay Monk (will plan the three luncheons for the coming year but wishes to be replaced next year.)

Nominating Committee Replacements: Roxann King and Kay Monk

Non- Elected (Appointments):

Newsletter Editor: Dot Gibson

Publicity: Michelle Hauf will take pictures. (Someone else will have to mail the blurbs to the contacts Teresa has made.)

Public Policy Info.: Pat Strott-Wheatley

Web Site Coordination and Facebook: Roxann King

APRIL PROGRAM

STAIR – Start The Adventure In Reading, is a proven reading and mentoring program designed to provide early intervention for at-risk second grade students in Annapolis. Their goals are to increase the reading level of skill deficient students, to increase each participant's sense of self-esteem by providing a program which expands each child's knowledge of self and the world of reading, and to provide a caring environment which will promote a more meaningful dialogue among multi-ethnic volunteers, students, teachers, and parents.

Throughout the year, students, identified by their teachers, work with an adult tutor twice a week after school for approximately one hour on a variety of activities, all focused on increasing basic reading skills and utilizing an educator-approved STAIR curriculum.

The volunteer tutor and child read together, play word games, practice phonics and write stories. A bond is forged between tutor and student, and learning occurs in a safe, nurturing environment. Studies have shown that children who do not read at grade level by the end of second grade (called the "bridge year") are at increased risk for academic failure. One need only open the newspaper or listen to the news to hear discussions of the impact that low reading proficiency is having on education, high school graduation, unemployment, and crime.

In the Jan. 30, 2014 Washington Post article by Reid Wilson: "Those who are proficient in reading by the end of third grade are more likely to graduate from high school, and to be economically successful as adults." And "Four of every five students who come from low-income households don't meet reading proficiency requirements, a new report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation finds." The STAIR program works within the City of Annapolis school system and draws its students from some of the poorest demographic areas such as Robinwood and Harbor House apartments as well as the large Hispanic population. We try to make a difference to those who are falling behind.

To that end, we are always looking for new tutors to support our six sites in Annapolis and we provide

training on a regular basis. Please contact Linda Barbour, Executive Director of STAIR, at 410.279.6480 (cell) or linda.barbour@hotmail.com.

COCKTAIL AND CONVOS FOR MARCH

Join us on Monday, March 31, from 4-6 p.m. at Libations, located on Veterans Hwy across from the Exxon Station on the corner of Veterans Hwy and Benfield Rd.

Libation features an extensive Happy Hour menu including: Fried Pickles, Libations Grilled Cheese, Angus Beef Burgers and much more! Drinks are \$1 off during Happy Hour! Come and join us, we always have a good time! It's a great way to get know each other better.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Markonette Richardson and Alice Harrison

Spring is finally here although we're not really counting on that. What we are counting on is that you will be talking to your friends about AAUW. You can mention our upcoming meeting on April 14 and our luncheon on May 10th. Both will provide a great opportunity to introduce your friends to our association. There is so much to be proud of and to be able to talk about. Our scholarships, Women to Women program, our Educational Fund, our camaraderie, our many activities, and of course, our book sale in November all are worth mentioning. Think about who might be a good candidate for membership – then invite them to a meeting! We have 87 members right now, but there's always room for more. Remember that membership costs \$45.50 until the June 30 end of the year, because national dues are at 1/2 off right now. That means that a new member will pay \$24.50 plus \$11 branch dues and \$10 state dues for a total of \$45.50.

TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP:

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 5! CONTACT BARBARA MARDER WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Sigrid Dorf

LAF has recently set up a Title IX Champions Award in order to be able to recognize some of the people who have been working hard to further the cause of Title IX.

One of those nominated were the sisters Priya and Kavya Ramamoorthy. Even though they are future AAUW members their Title IX championship should be celebrated. After doing a research project on title IX, with help from AAUW, they found that kids their age (16) are not aware of Title IX or the challenges that women face in higher education.

They recently set up a booth at the GenAustin We Are Girls conference to educate kids about Title IX. They have also set up a website about Title IX and empowering girls and women. Their purpose is to motivate girls to appreciate and make use of the opportunities they have, to fight for inequalities when they encounter discrimination, and to show them that a federal law is on their side.

You can read about other nominees or nominate a Title IX Champion by going to aauw.org.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

Sigrid Dorf

Keren Taylor, a recipient of a Community Action Grant for 2009-11 and the founder of WriteGirl, a nonprofit writing program for at-risk girls in Los Angeles has been busy receiving awards for her program. She was just named a CNN HERO and before that she received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, the highest national honor awarded to such programs.

When she was laid off from a corporate job she used her severance pay to start WriteGirls, a creative writing program. Participants get one-on-one mentoring to work on writing, speaking skills and schoolwork. This helps them to speak up and reach out for help in school, in their relationships and at home. In the last 12 years WriteGirl has helped about 500 girls graduate from high school and go on to college. This year 350 girls from 60 high schools are participating in the program.

HELP WANTED

Sigrid Dorf

I have been working with the Educational Foundation and the Educational Opportunities Fund almost since I joined this branch and I feel it is time to step down and let someone else have a chance. The fellowships and grants awarded by EOF have helped many deserving women further their educations and begin careers that have been beneficial to help women and girls.

Your job as chair would be to keep the membership aware of the work of the EOF through newsletter articles and at meetings. You would also be involved in making our annual contribution to EOF and with the current and past presidents determining the branch recipients of the Names Honored.

Please contact me with any questions.

DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

Pat Eggleston

Our next regularly scheduled daytime book club meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 2 at Pat Eggleston's house, 930 Yachtsman Way, Annapolis, MD 21403. Please contact me at pat.eggleston@gmail.com if you plan to attend. The book is *The House Girl* by Tara Conklin.

Lunch Bunch

Roxann King

Friday, April 4th, 11:30 a.m. at the Four Seasons Grill in Annapolis. It has been a while since we gathered for lunch! If you want to reserve a seat, contact Roxann, roxann.king1@verizon.net or 410-431-7166. See you then!

Michele Hauf e-mailed that the 2012 Women to Women Awardee, Wendy Anderson, is now the Nutritionist at the Giant in Severna Park, MD. Wonderful news!

2014 ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

Dot Gibson

It's that time of year again! Time for our annual Spring Luncheon (with great brunch food this year) on Saturday, **May 10**, (please note change of date!) from 11 to 2 at the Chartwell Country Club, St. Ives Drive, Severna Park.

We'll have a brief meeting, approve next year's budget, and have our election/induction of officers and lots of time for fun and fellowship.

To make reservations, fill in the bottom of the flyer following the Calendar of Events and send to me, Dot Gibson. Please join us. It's always a good time!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday	31-Mar	Cocktails and Convos, Libations, Millersville, 4-6 p.m.
Wednesday	9-Apr	Board Meeting at Dot Gibson's
Monday	14-Apr	Members' Meeting, Woods Church, 7 p.m., Linda Barbour, the STAIR program, public policy and early childhood education
Saturday	19-Apr	May Newsletter Articles due to Claire Motley
Saturday	26-Apr	AAUW Maryland Annual Convention, Frederick, MD
Saturday	10-May	Spring Luncheon at Chartwell C.C.
Sat-Sun	11-May	Annapolis City Fair, City Docks, Annapolis
Wednesday	14-May	Board Meeting
Saturday	24-May	Summer newsletter Articles due to Claire Motley/Dot Gibson
Thursday	5-Jun	NCCWSL Women of Distinction Ceremony, University of Maryland
Thurs-Sat	June 5-7, 2014	National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, College Park
Sat	19-Jul	AAUW Maryland Summer Leadership Training Meeting, Gaithersburg
Thurs-Sun	June 18-21, 2015	AAUW National Convention, San Diego

HOORAY FOR SPRING!!



AAUW's 2014 Spring Luncheon

SATURDAY, MAY 10th -- 11 A.M. -- 2 P.M.

CHARTWELL COUNTRY CLUB, SEVERNA PARK
St. Ives Rd., Severna Park

Special Brunch Buffet at \$30 PER PERSON.

Join us for...

- ◆ Scholarship Awards ◆ Officer Installations ◆
- ◆ 50/50 chances ◆ warmth and camaraderie

JOIN THE FUN!!

Special buffet menu includes ▪ Eggs Benedict ▪ French Toast with Maple Syrup on the side ▪ Fresh Fruit ▪ Grilled Asparagus ▪ Maple Sausage Links ▪ Smoked Salmon Platter ▪ Golden Swan Dessert ▪ Coffee, hot tea
▪ Cash bar available from 11 to 2 ▪

!!Special reminder to pay your AAUW dues at the luncheon!!

RSVP AND SEND YOUR \$30 per person Check to:
DOT GIBSON (To call – 410-266-8930)
2002 PEGGY STEWART WAY, UNIT 203, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

I WILL ATTEND (Name) _____

I am bringing # _____ Guests

My Check made payable to: AAUW for \$ _____ is enclosed.

DEADLINE to sign-up: Monday, May 5

I must have your luncheon check by: Wednesday, May 7

