



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

November 2016 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By Laney Forge and Gail Viamonte

Greetings from your presidents! Here we are in the early stages of the holiday season of 2016. Is it possible that it is upon us already? With all of the Hallowe'en, Thanksgiving, religious and cultural events to attend with your families, we know you are busy and happily enjoying this time of year. We hope you will join us as we continue to host events and projects that make us the exciting organization that we are. We've had a very productive and interesting beginning to our year.

In September, we had a very successful new member's luncheon with approximately forty members and guests attending. In early October we met at Brio for a lovely Cocktails and Conversation party. It was fun to get to know many new people who have joined us this year. On October 26th we co-hosted a political forum with the League of Women Voters for several of the candidates running for office in Anne Arundel County. Thanks to all of our members who participated by planning the meeting and serving as hosts to the candidates and the public. It was an interesting and informative evening and we hope that our community benefited by hearing from these candidates.

This is the time of year for our annual used book sale. We have been collecting books on Saturday mornings in Severna Park and Annapolis since early summer. So many of our members have contributed to making this one of our most successful years in the amount of books we've gathered. A big thank you to all of you for the time and effort you put in. Thanks to Stacy and Roxann

for planning, recruiting volunteers to collect, transporting books to Lucia's garage and sorting them once they are there. We even collected them in the pouring rain! Our next step is to transport all the books to the book sale site where we will sort them and sell them to our eager public. We hope you will sign up to donate a few of your precious hours to assist us in this big, big job. The effort is always worth the hard work because the funds we earn helps fund several women in our community with monetary scholarships used toward their education financial needs. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need your help! In January we'll have a party to celebrate our success!

This month our board will be developing the goals for our organization for this 2016-17 year. We hope you will give us your input regarding your vision for AAUW this year. We welcome your ideas! Send an email to Gail: or Laney before November 11 and we will include your suggestions in our plans.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Cathy Crowley and Mary McGrath

Branch fall events--Member's night at the Book Sale, Wednesday, November 9th, 7-9 pm. Come join us all for goodies provided by our book groups and an evening of browsing/buying books.

SAVE THE DATE--Holiday Luncheon, Saturday, December 3rd, 11:00 - 2:00PM. Don't miss our Branch's annual luncheon to celebrate the holiday season, enjoy some excellent cuisine, sing some seasonal tunes, and enjoy each other's company.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Niv Roy Ghatak

We are delighted to welcome our two newest members to the AAUW Anne Arundel Branch. They are Claudia Barber and Kim Pendergast.

Claudia Barber was at the AACC Women's Fair & Expo on September 26th where she met a few of our Board members at the AAUW-AACC table. Judge Claudia Barber holds a B.A. in Political Science and Communications from Goucher College, an M.S. in Economic Education from John Hopkins University, and a J.D. from University of Baltimore School of Law. Claudia is also a 2016 candidate for the 5th Circuit Court in Maryland and the first black woman to appear on the general election ballot for circuit judge in Anne Arundel County. Claudia lives in Laurel.

Kim Pendergast was introduced to AAUW by another of our new members, Martha Swift. Kim has a B.A. in Business Administration and Finance from University of Baltimore and M.S. in Technology Management and Technology Systems from University of Maryland University College. She works for Rockwell Collins ARINC in Annapolis as Sr. Manager, Program Management. Kim is an avid hiker and she lives in Arnold.

If you see Kim or Claudia or any of our other new AAUW members, please don't forget to introduce yourselves. Also, please continue to invite your colleagues, friends and family to AAUW events. In fact, our upcoming Fall Used Book Sale is a wonderful way to pick up some new reads and show-off our AAUW Branch in action, i.e. earning funds for scholarships for women. If you think your guests would like a taste of the real AAUW spirit do bring them to Festival at Pasadena for the Member's Night at the Book Sale on Nov 9th at 7pm - or sign up with them for a volunteer slot at: www.tinyurl.com/aauwbooksale. What a fun way to give to a great cause!

2016 BOOK SALE – PREPARATIONS START THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3!!

By Roxann King and Stacey Hilder

Our 2016 Book Sale, the Branch's biggest annual event and our source of revenue for our educational awards, is just about to begin. If you have not already done so, PLEASE follow this link and sign up to work several time slots: setting up, selling, or clean up after the sale.

<http://tinyurl.com/aauwbooksale>.

Books will be moved to the sale site on Thursday, November 3, and the sale begins one week later, on Thursday, November 10. It ends Sunday the 13th at 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed for 2 or 3 hour time slots from the 3rd through the 13th at the Book Sale location: Festival at Pasadena, 8151- D Ritchie Hwy., Pasadena 21122. Questions? Call: Roxann, 240-472-1408.

See the October newsletter for all the details on the book sale, which are also on the sign up page online.

Appeal to our Philanthropists...

Part of our national mission is philanthropy in support of equity in the workplace and in education for women and girls. If you wish to contribute personally to any of our Branch award funds, send a check payable to: AAUW Anne Arundel County Branch to our treasurer: Dianne Dezio, 8607 Wintergreen Ct., #403, Odenton, MD 21113. The three funds are listed below. If you do not specify a fund, then your donation will be distributed 50%, 25%, 25%, respectively, which is the rule our branch has determined for distributing branch award fund monies.

- **Women-to-Women** awards to local women with needs for pursuing higher education;
- **Transfer Scholarship** awards to Anne Arundel Community College graduates transferring to a college or university;
- **AAUW Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)** awards, presented by the national AAUW organization to women for graduate education or research related to women's issues.

You can also specify your donation towards scholarships to the annual **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**, held annually at University of Maryland in College, College Park. We annually fund participation by one or more student leaders from our local colleges.

Public Policy Update

By Roxann King

Maryland: AAUW Anne Arundel County is an organizational member of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. Five bills were passed both the House and Senate during the 2016 legislative session supported by MLAW.

- The Equal Pay for Equal Work Act prohibits wage discrimination or less favorable employment opportunities based on sex or gender identity. An employer may not prohibit an employee from inquiring, discussing, or disclosing the wages of the employee or another employee or requesting that the employer provide a reason for the employee's wages.
- The amended Stalking and Harassment Bill adds language that prohibits a person from engaging in the crime of stalking, harassment, and misuse of electronic communications or interactive computer services if the person "intends to cause or knows or reasonably should have known that the conduct would cause serious emotional distress to another." This change would enable stalking behaviors to be more successfully prosecuted.
- The amended Peace Orders – Grounds for Relief Bill adds the following offenses to the list of offenses for which a petitioner can file for a Peace Order: misuse of telephone facilities and equipment; misuse of electronic communication or interactive computer service; revenge porn; visual surveillance. These additional offenses expand the list of harassing and stalking behaviors currently in the law.
- The Task Force to Study Family and Medical Leave Insurance Bill establishes a task force to make recommendations regarding the development of a State social insurance program that provides short-term benefits to

eligible employees who lose wages due to specified circumstances. The report of its findings would be sent to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2017.

- The Maryland Contraceptive Act of 2016 prohibits health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations from applying a copayment, coinsurance, or prior authorization requirement for specified contraceptive drugs and devices.

This year's MLAW fall conference was held on Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, MD. Sixteen bills were presented by advocates or supporting legislators seeking support during the 2017 legislative session. During November, members of MLAW (including our branch) will vote to decide which bills to support during the session. You can go to the MLAW website: <https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/>, to view the bills being considered or to join MLAW (\$25) and have a vote yourself. In late January, the MLAW's lobbying effort begins with a reception introducing the legislators supporting the bills in the Senate office building in Annapolis. If you are interested in supporting MLAW's agenda, get on their email list so that you will know when hearings are being held on bills. Giving testimony, written or oral, or simply being present at a hearing, lets the legislators know that these issues are important to consider.

In addition to MLAW, Maryland has another unique legislative activity for women, the Women's Legislative Briefing, which is more educational in nature: it features breakout sessions led by legislators, advocates, and legal teams crafting bills for presentation to the legislature. Most bills take multiple years, revisions and presentations to finally succeed in the House and Senate. This is an opportunity to learn and to provide input. Hundreds of participants are again expected at this event which will be held on January 29, 2017 at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville.

National: When Congress is in session, AAUW Lobby Corps volunteers and student interns lobby for bills supporting the [AAUW Public Policy Program](#) weekly on Thursdays in the Senate and House office buildings. The AAUW Public Policy is updated

bi-annually through voting at the national convention. The most recent update was June 2015. In June 2016 members had an opportunity to present changes to policy. Those changes will be reflected in the issues for vote during the 2017 convention.

Two successes stand out from this year's legislation and court decisions.

- The Department of Labor finalized a rule to expand overtime pay for millions of American workers. The new rule doubles the salary threshold to qualify for overtime pay from \$23,660 to \$47,476. The department estimates that 4.2 million more Americans will gain overtime pay that were previously ineligible under federal law. In addition, the new rule is expected to boost wages for workers by \$12 billion over the next 10 years. To understand how the rule impacts average workers, the Department of Labor released a short [video](#) explaining the qualifying threshold increase.
- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit struck down North Carolina's voter ID law on the grounds that it [disproportionately prevented black people from voting](#). Similar decisions were reached in [Texas](#), [Wisconsin](#), and [North Dakota](#), states with the [most restrictive voter ID laws](#). Judges in all three decisions reaffirmed that when enacting the laws, legislators were aware that minorities would be disproportionately affected. It's become clear the intent of many new voter laws is not to improve democracy but to discriminate. The courts have reaffirmed that the right to vote is exactly that --- a right --- and these nonsensical and discriminatory voting laws must not obstruct an individual's basic right to vote.

If you would like to participate in **Lobby Corps**, contact our member Lynn Hapchuk (hapchuk@verizon.net), who is active in Lobby Corps. If you would like to more easily support AAUW national legislative issues, sign up to be a [Two-Minute Activist](#).

AAUW [2016 voter guides](#) provide nonpartisan, head-to-head candidate comparisons illuminating the critical choices women voters face in close

elections nationwide. Use the voter guides to educate yourself, and [share them with your friends and family](#). Take them to town halls to ask candidates why they hold that position. Provide them to students when you table on campus.

AAUW's [chart of state equal pay laws](#) shows how each state's laws stack up and which crucial protections are missing. Check out how well Maryland does in protecting the rights of women to take home a fair wage. Also, earlier this year, President Barack Obama directed the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and its Office for Federal Contracts Compliance Programs, to publish a proposal to annually collect summary pay data by gender, race, and ethnicity from businesses with 100 or more employees.

Like us in Facebook: AAUW Anne Arundel County or AAUW Anne Arundel County Book Sale. Visit our website: <http://annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net/>.

EVENING BOOK CLUB

By Stacey Hilder

The Evening Book Club will next meet at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, November 2, at the home of Janice Roper-Graham, 1101 Neptune Place, Atlantis/Cape St Clair. We will be discussing the book [Black Flags- The Rise of Isis](#) by Joby Warrick. Janice will be hosting the meeting and leading the discussion.

In December, the group will be discussing [Under the Starry Sky](#) by Nancy Horan. We would love to have you join us. Questions? Call Stacey Hilder 410-647-7041.

GREAT DECISIONS

By Terry Sayler

Great Decisions will meet Friday, Dec. 2 at 9:45am to discuss The Two Koreas. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Terry Sayler, [410-757- 2446](tel:410-757-2446) or: saylerterry2@gmail.com for more information.

This link:

http://fpa.org/great_decisions/index.cfm?act=topic_detail&topic_id=54 provides lots of details.

It's that time of year again!

Time for the **AAUW**

FALL BOOK SALE

**Sponsored by the
American Association of University Women
Anne Arundel County Branch**

Join this annual partnership with the community on ...

Thursday, November 10th 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (\$10.00 Entrance fee for Pre-Sale Only)

Thursday, November 10th 10:00 AM to 7:30 PM

Friday, November 11th 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Saturday, November 12th 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Sunday, November 13th 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

(No Entrance fee Thurs. 10 AM to Sunday 3 PM. Sunday is Bargain Day-Buy Books by the Bag!)



**Festival at Pasadena
8151-D Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD
(in the BJ's Shopping Center next to East West Bistro)**

Further information is available:

Roxann King 240-472-1408 roxann.king1@gmail.net

Stacey Hilder 410-647-7041 stacey861@verizon.net

Thank you to Fedder Management Corp, Owings Mills, MD for the site location.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wednesday November 2-Evening Book Club – 7:30 p.m. – Hostess – Janice Roper-Graham – Questions: Stacey Hilder, 410-647-7041- See article above
- Thursday 11/3-11/9 – Book Sale Set Up - Festival at Pasadena, 8151-D Ritchie Hwy, Pasadena, MD – See full details in Book Sale article above.
- Wednesday November 9 – Members’ Night at Book Sale – 6:30-9 p.m.
- Thursday 11/10-11/13 – **Book Sale** - Festival at Pasadena, 8151-D Ritchie Hwy, Pasadena, MD – See full details in October’s Newsletter Book Sale article.
- Friday December 2 – Great Decisions – 9:45 a.m.- contact Terry Sayler, [410-757- 2446](tel:410-757-2446) or: saylerterry2@gmail.com for more information.
- Saturday December 3 – **AAUW Holiday Party** – Café Mezzanotte Restaurant – 11-2 p.m.