



annearundelcounty-md.aauw.net

December 2015 Newsletter

THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Mary McGrath and Gail Viamonte

Another AAUW/AACo Branch event has come to a close and by all accounts it was a big success. Our book sale brought many members together working hard to set up the book tables, work the sale days, and clean up the site removing all leftover books. Thank you all for your participation. Many thanks to Roxann and Stacey who did an outstanding job making it all happen.

That brings us to our next two events. December 5th our first STEM Girls Workshop will be held at the Anne Arundel Community College. Judith MacGregor has all her member volunteers ready for action. All are learning their role in anticipation of a morning of inspiration as we watch these 4th graders discover the world of technology and how they can become a part of it.

The second event is our annual Holiday Luncheon on December 6th at Mezzanotte. Hopefully by now you all have sent your reservations to Mary-Lynne Neil. If not, you have until Monday, November 30, to do so. That gives us only a few days. Sign up now so you don't miss it. Each year our Holiday Luncheon is well attended and we all have a good time visiting with one another, enjoying a good meal, and singing traditional holiday tunes.

The Branch Nominating Committee will start their planning in December. Look for them to contact all members, after the New Year, to fill the slate of officers for the next two years.

The Program Committee is also planning a couple of outings for us during the long winter. Keep an eye on our communication tools, December and February newsletters, and our website and Facebook page both at: www.annearundelcountybranch-md.aauw.net.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the national website: www.aauw.org for all the legislation AAUW is supporting. Remember too the Two Minute Activist. There is a lot going on and as members of AAUW we need to be aware and make our voices heard as the process unfolds during the next session. In addition, check out our State AAUW website for State legislative activities.

Happy Holidays Everyone!

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

By Roxann King

In preparation for the 2016 Maryland legislative session there are three women-centered events scheduled:

- 1) The MLAW Fall Conference will be held on Saturday, November 14, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Gaithersburg. Bills being proposed this year will be presented to the group for consideration of sponsorship by MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women). Later in the fall the MLAW members vote on which bills will be supported. Our branch is a member of MLAW. [Click here for the conference flyer](#). [Click here to register online for the conference](#). I will be attending and would love company on the drive to Gaithersburg.

- 2) Late January 2016 – Maryland Women’s Legislative Briefing hosts sessions led by teams working to draft legislation to address various women’s issues in Maryland. The participants get to share ideas with those crafting the bills. This is very interesting and attended by many of our legislators.
- 3) Early February - MLAW Legislative reception in Annapolis. Meet with the legislators to discuss the bills being supported by MLAW this year.

Have you joined AAUW’s Two Minute activist? If you have, then you have received a message from the AAUW Action Network urging your support against passage of HR 10, the D.C. school voucher act. This act would enable funding for attendance at private or religious elementary or secondary schools, not bound by many civil rights laws and particularly by Title IX. To participate in Two Minute Activist and receive action updates on national legislation you can join at <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Mary McGrath

Recently a couple members of our Nominating Committee had to resign. We are in need of two volunteers to replace them. Only a short period of your time is needed as a Nominating Committee member. The committee starts work in December, with their big effort in January and February. Nominees are presented to members at the March meeting, members vote at the April meeting and the new officers are inducted at the May meeting. Please contact Mary McGrath at mary@bugeye.net to volunteer for this important committee.

PUBLIC POLICY

By Roxann King

2016 Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, the coalition of Maryland women’s advocacy organizations, is celebrating its twentieth year during this legislative year. MLAW met in Gaithersburg on November 14 for members to learn about bills being proposed this year for MLAW’s support. In order to present, a bill must

address a women’s issue, have an identifiable supporting organization shepherding it through the legislative process, have a sponsor in the legislature and have a reasonable chance of success. Of seven bills supported by MLAW during the last legislative session, four became law. Maryland is unique among states in having such a coalition.

Both the Maryland House and Senate have a record number of newly-elected members this year. Most of the new senators are veteran politicians already, having experience as House members or elsewhere. Most of the new members of the House of Delegates are new to politics. The meeting began with Q & A with a panel of four new delegates, two serving on the Judicial Committee (Marice Morales and Will Smith, Montgomery County) and two on the Health and Government Operations Committee (Erek Barron, Prince George’s, and Karen Young, Frederick). Twelve or more legislators attended, men as well as women. This year’s bills focus more on economic issues: last year had more bills related to safety. Here are the bills seeking MLAW’s support. Detailed descriptions are available at: www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org.

Equal Pay for Equal Work Act. This legislation provides protection for workers to discuss their wages without fear of retaliation, bars employers from providing less favorable opportunities based on sex or gender identity and updates Maryland’s Equal Pay for Same Work law by including gender identity as a protected category.

Fair Scheduling Act of 2016. This bill will provide hourly workers with some measure of predictability in their schedules so that they can plan for and balance non-work responsibilities by incentivizing employers to build stable, family-friendly schedules.

Maryland Healthy Working Families Act. This would enable workers, particularly low-wage workers, to earn a limited number of annual paid sick and safe days from their employers. (The safe time is provided for victims of domestic abuse or sexual assault to seek health care or legal protection.)

Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion. This bill would help young lower income workers who are unable to meet expenses by lowering the age, increasing eligibility, and increasing benefits.

Stalking, Harassment, Misuse of Electronic Communication or Interactive Computer Service, Revenge Porn. Currently due definition in Maryland’s criminal law, it is difficult to prosecute these cases. This bill contain changes to law recommended by the

Governor's Family Violence Council that will enable prosecution.

Rape Survivor Family Protection Act. This bill terminates the rights of rapists when a child is conceived as a result of rape.

School Food Transparency. School districts will be required to list all foods sold in cafeterias on breakfast and lunch menus, including a la carte or snack foods. Then parents will have the knowledge needed to block sales of a la carte items or demand healthier choices.

Sensible Sugar in Schools. School districts will be required to form a committee to formulate policy to reduce added sugar intake in cafeteria meals to the levels recommended by the American Heart Association (no more than 3 teaspoons for children ages 4-8 and no more than 5-8 teaspoons for pre-teens and teens).

Universal Voter Registration Act. This bill automatically registers all eligible Maryland residents by accessing several state agency databases including MVA, the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange and local social service departments.

Post-Secondary Education Child Support post Age of Majority. This bill mandates child support or full time college or university attendance until the age of 21.

Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. This would establish a paid family and medical leave insurance program similar to unemployment insurance for the 87% of the Maryland workforce who do not earn paid family and medical leave. Precise utilization projections for program design in Maryland have been provided by the Institute for Women's Policy Research as part of a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Expansion of Maryland's "Vacating Convictions" Law for Survivors of Human Trafficking. This expands last year's enacted law to include survivors of labor trafficking and includes additional coneligible for vacatur, such as loitering, trespassing, related to the trafficking, to lessen the impact of these convictions and help victims obtain housing, jobs, and get out of poverty.

The next step in this process is for members of MLAW to decide by their votes which bills will be supported. Individual (\$35) and organizational (\$70) membership is available at the MLAW web site. Voting will occur in early December. Prior to the session beginning, Marylanders have the opportunity to be listed among supporters of the entire slate: check the MLAW web site. In late January there will be an MLAW reception in Annapolis prior to the session, attended by the

sponsoring delegates and senators and MLAW members.

National issues:

The U.S. Senate is considering the Workplace Advancement Act (S. 2200). The Workplace Advancement Act puts forth only *one* solution to address the gender pay gap: a very weak, very narrow non-retaliation provision that would require workers to use legally "magic words" when initiating discussions about pay. The bill fails to close the many loopholes used to justify discriminatory wages, while recommitting to the outdated legal principles of the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act in 2013 is now supported by regulations that went into effect July 1. Schools are making important strides to improve their response to incidents of rape, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. AAUW opposes both the Safe Campus Act and the Fair Campus Act, two recently proposed bills. The first is a bill that would not require accommodation to victims until a conviction is reached; the second undermines the protection for an education free from harassment and violence for victims now provided by Title IX.

To easily support AAUW national issues, become a [Two-Minute Activist](#).

ON TRACK FOR OUR FIRST STEM WORKSHOP DECEMBER 5TH

By Judith MacGregor

Planning is now in the last stages for STEM GIRLS COUNT! being held on Saturday morning, December 5th.

A total of 75 girls and their adult companions have registered. Seventeen elementary school teachers have been selected to attend and will continue to mentor the girls. The program is all set with presenters leading hands on activities in the following areas: architecture, environmental engineering, microbiology, information technology, chemistry, electrical engineering, physical sciences and nutrition. Our own branch members: Michele Hauf, Teresa Todd, Kathy Arias and Niv Roy Ghatak will be among the presenters, making it extra special. There is a separate program for the adults on how to mentor STEM girls and to learn about STEM resources that are available in our county. Also, many of our branch members are helping in various capacities.

Space is very tight so if you have not been given a volunteer task and you want to come, then let Judith MacGregor, jamacgregor101@gmail.com (410 911 9115), know right away.

Our branch member- Janice Roper Graham's company, Outreach Process Partners, is providing the major funding for the event with an additional contribution from Rockwell Collins.

Thanks to all who have volunteered!

PHILANTHROPIC

By Roxann King

Appeal to our philanthropists...

Donations to any of our AAUW Award Funds are always appreciated.

Specify:

Women-to-Women Awards, awards to local women with needs for pursuing higher education;

Transfer Scholarship Awards, scholarships to Anne Arundel Community College graduates transferring to a college or university;

AAUW Educational Opportunity Funds (EOF) awards, awards presented by the national AAUW organization for graduate education or research related to women's issues.

NCCWSL: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, held annually in College Park in late May or early June. Our branch sponsors one or more attendees from colleges in Anne Arundel County each year.

If you do not specify a fund, 50% will go to Women-to-Women Awards, 25% to Transfer Scholarships and 25% to EOF Funds.

Make checks payable to: AAUW Anne Arundel County. Mail to our treasurer: Dianne Dezio, 8607 Wintergreen Ct., #403, Odenton, MD 21113.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Diana Larmore and Alice Harrison

We have two new members – one who is the daughter of our Co-President Mary McGrath and one who came to our book sale with new member, Cathy Crowley.

Colleen Kane is Mary's daughter. She lives in Pasadena and is a computer systems administrator. She earned a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from University of California, Davis.

Noel Eller, also of Pasadena, came to our book sale and later joined our branch. She has a Master of Science degree in nursing from University of Maryland at Baltimore and a PhD in Higher Education from University of Maryland College Park. She is a retired assistant professor of nursing. Please join me in welcoming these two fine members.

We want to wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year. The membership committee would love to hear your suggestions for improvement. Be sure to bring your friends and relatives to a meeting, luncheon, or other event. We always are looking for more bright and engaging women!

TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS

By Barbara Marder

Student member and 2015 Transfer Scholarship recipient Teisha Miles continues to shine. Her outstanding leadership at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, was the subject of a featured article in their Campus Currents. Branch members may enjoy reading about the success of one of our own.

<http://www.thecampuscurrent.com/2164/news/moving-on-and-moving-up-looking-back-at-aacc/>

Transfer Scholarship applications for the 2015-2016 academic year, to be awarded at our May celebration, will be available in mid-January. The Transfer Scholarship Committee is still seeking a couple of new members. Consider volunteering for this rewarding activity; it requires a small amount of your time in the spring.

BOOK SALE BASH

By Roxann King

Book Sale Bash in the New Year--

Join us in celebrating the end of this year's book sale with our annual Book Sale Bash at 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, at the River Bay Roadhouse, 1374 Cape St. Claire Road, Annapolis. RSVP to:

roxann.king1@verizon.net or stacey861@verizon.net.

We did well: our profit should exceed last year's. You will hear from us when the final total is available. We are still awaiting checks for the remaining books sold by the box at the end of the sale: we delivered 1,158 leftover boxes of books to Wonder Books in Frederick after the sale. Books also went to BIG, Goodwill, and prisons.

We want to acknowledge the support of members of our families and the community in making this sale successful. Fedder Management Corporation of Owings Mills, Maryland, donated the site again for the sixth year. The Bank of America on Jumpers Hole Road in Severna Park, Y of Central Maryland in Arnold, and St. Philip's Episcopal Church on Bestgate Road in Annapolis allowed our collections at their locations, which turned out to be the biggest ever. Members of Ambassador Girl Scout Troop #547 and students of Rita Gomez at Anne Arundel Community College joined us in moving books and setting up the sale, along with members and other volunteers from the community. Members: Lucia Robson, Jeanne Hawn, and Maggie Cullman allowed use of their garages for book storage. And the list goes on.... Thank you one and all.

- Stacey Hilder and Roxann King, Book Sale Co-Chairs

**EOF/LAF Report
By Sharon Halligan**

Legal Advocacy Fund—

The Real 10. The U.S. Treasury has announced that the image on the new \$10 bill will be that of a woman.

The big issue here is that there still is a fair pay gap with women earning an average of only \$.79 for every \$1.00 earned by men. The gap for Black and other minority women is even greater. To call attention to this pay gap, AAUW invites its members to go to <http://thereal10.org> and upload their images to show what the real \$10.00 bill looks like to women. This image can then be posted on social media pages and shared with friends to help fight for equal pay.

Supreme Court Preview Call--The October 2015 newsletter offered all members the opportunity to attend a briefing at AAUW National headquarters for an analysis on the Supreme Court's 2015 docket. If you missed the opportunity to attend the briefing but would like to hear it, you can listen here [listen here](#). This is a great way to follow the cases that National advocates.

Educational Opportunity Fund -- As we approach the year's end, it is time to pay the branch's annual contribution to the educational opportunity. The Funds page on the national website is an excellent source for information on the categories of funding and also to read about the winners for past years. The branch's contributions to this fund are 25% of the net proceeds from the book sale. Additionally, members can designate contributions to the educational opportunity fund.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 5 – Saturday – STEM Event at AACC – 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - (See Judith MacGregor's STEM article for details.)

December 6 – Sunday – Holiday luncheon, Noon-3 p.m. – Café Mezzanotte, Severna Park

January 7 – Thursday – Book Sale Bash, Riverbay Roadside Inn – 6 p.m. (See details in Roxann's Book Sale Bach article)

January 10 – Sunday – Martin Luther King Jr. Concert – Time TBA - St. John's College

January 20 – Wednesday – Board Meeting – 7 p.m. - Roxann King's home

AAUW Annual Holiday Luncheon



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015
12:00 NOON - 3:00 PM
CAFÉ MEZZANOTTE RESTAURANT
760 RITCHIE HIGHWAY, SEVERNA PARK
(410-647-1100)

Holiday greetings to all our members!

It's the time of year when we join together for a celebration at our annual holiday luncheon. We also turn our thoughts to others and their needs.

This year Annapolis' Stanton House has suggested outerwear, such as coats, hats and gloves, for children of all ages. If you wish to participate, either purchase gifts and bring them unwrapped to the luncheon, or donate money for gifts at the luncheon to be purchased and delivered by us to Stanton House.

Looking forward to seeing you!

A Special Holiday Luncheon buffet will be served featuring: chicken parmigiana, salmon and penne marinara accompanied by mixed green salad, seasonal vegetables and mini cannoli with your choice of soft drinks, coffee or tea. A cash bar will be available throughout the lunch.

RSVP due to Mary-Lynne Neil by Monday, November 30**

1491 Falcon Nest Court, Arnold, MD 21012

marylynne.neil@gmail.com, 443-848-0321

****Please let Mary-Lynne know you're coming. An accurate count is important!**

Y N I will attend (Name) _____
Y N I am bringing # _____ guests.
Y N My check for \$ _____ made to AAUW is enclosed at
\$30/person.