

## AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

Volume 70, Number 4

April 2, 2020



### Co- Presidents' Message



Dear All,

These are tough times. It is difficult for everyone, and more so for some. That's the simple truth, but there are a few good things happening. I'm meeting neighbors who I've never seen before (from a 6-foot distance) out for a walk with the entire family. (Like 1959!) I'm cooking a little more, and most of it is healthy fuel. The main benefit — I (Sharon) am learning to use more of today's technology and enjoying the connection, entertainment and wealth of information it brings to our lives in our homes. How about you?

We all live in Virginia, so we all know that AAUW activities at the branch level that require person-to-person contact have been cancelled or deferred to whenever the stay-home order and social distancing guidance are lifted, and collectively, we feel safe gathering. Book sorting, book collection and the book sale are deferred. The May Scholarship meeting is deferred or cancelled. The Board is continuing to discuss with the Scholarship Committee the number of completed applications, and how and when to award the scholarships. At this time, the June meeting/picnic is tentatively on hold, and is likely to be held online.

#### **Recent decisions:**

Current officers will summarize their activities (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) in a final annual report and their reports will be distributed to you for your information.

The deadline to apply on behalf of a local program for a Special Award has passed. The Board received one application, and has awarded \$750 in financial assistance to the AVID Program at Justice High School. This award is to be used for transportation expenses when AVID is able to resume taking AVID students to tour various colleges.

We have supported this program in the past with similar annual awards.

#### **Things we are considering. Let us know your thoughts:**

The Book Group will have a virtual meeting on April 14. Following Polly's lead, the Board is considering using ZOOM or another online application to first have a Board meeting, then try to do the same to hold a branch meeting in later April. There is much to learn during this crisis, and online meeting strategies sounds like a good place to start. It also may be possible to have an online meeting in June to discuss program ideas.

The Board recently discussed staying in touch with members using call groups or conference calls. In lieu of calling every member, any member that wants to be in communication as part of a call group, or just a one-on-one conversation, should indicate that desire in an email to Elizabeth, Sharon or Shannon. Otherwise, we will leave you alone and not invade your privacy. For small groups, we would use free conferencing or Facetime. Now is a good time to start using Facetime if you have it on your phone and have generally ignored it.

The Northern District needs to elect a district representative(s) before the April 18, 2020 AAUW VA Annual Business meeting. Because of the current restrictions, the Northern District is not able to hold an in-person meeting to elect such persons for the 2020-2022 term. Sandra Lawrence and Sara Anderson have volunteered to serve as co-representatives for the 2020-2022 term, if elected. (No others volunteered or were nominated.) The Board met telephonically and voted in favor of their election, and this action was communicated to our current Northern District representatives.

At the state level, the good news is that the VA AAUW Annual Business Meeting will be held using an online program that will enable everyone to participate. Save the date: April 18, at 1:00 pm. However, the state convention is cancelled. Instead, it will be held March 2021 at the same location in Alexandria, Virginia.

At the national level, Kim Churches informed us on March 24, via webcast, of staff's continuation of their work. Look for the webcast on the AAUW national website as well as several other webinars during this period, which AAUW national staff intends to produce.

**Note: The branch still needs someone or two people to step up and be nominated for Program VPs.**

The Falls Church City Council issued a proclamation to recognize that March 31, 2020 is "Equal Pay Day," the day when women's average earnings finally catch up to what white men, on average, earned the previous year. AAUW asked that the City Council do so. Thank you, Marilyn Falksen, for all your hard work. In addition, we submitted an opinion piece ("Guest Commentary") called "Equal Pay Day" to the Falls Church News Press, a copy of which is included in this newsletter.

Pam Martinov is responsible for getting out this newsletter month after month and always does a great job. Thank you, Pam, for all of your fast and great work!

We wish you a Happy Easter or Passover, and hope that the holidays help all of us focus on what is important in life. We are here for each other. Reach out to an AAUW Board member or friend if you need assistance.

Elizabeth Kessel and Sharon Zackula

Co-Presidents

## COVID 19 and AAUW

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/26/cnn-underscored/virtual-museums/index.html>

You might want to watch the webinar, "AAUW and The Impact of the Coronavirus," led by Kim Churches on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. The webinar will be available on the AAUW website. Kim shares the national office's plans to continue AAUW's critical work during this challenging period and shares best practices for branches and states as we navigate these difficult times together as a community.

## VA AAUW Elections

AAUW of Virginia Branch Members:

Because it's been several weeks now since you received the [2020 Voter Guide](#) in the 2020 Winter/Spring Vision, we want to refresh your memory on the highlights of the upcoming election and voting process:

All AAUW of Virginia members as of April 1 are eligible to vote in the 2020 election.



We are voting on the following four officer positions for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2020. Co-Presidents, Vice President for Communications, Vice President for Program, and Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, as well as on a proposed AAUW-VA bylaws amendment and the proposed AAUW-VA 2020-2022 Public Policy Priorities. The [2020 Voter Guide](#) contains information on the candidates running, the bylaws amendment and public policy priorities, as well as on the voting process and timeline.

Even though candidates are running unopposed, it is critical that you vote because we need a quorum of seven percent of our membership voting in the election so that

the newly elected state officers can take office on July 1, 2020.

Because we are voting online and a link to the online ballot will be emailed to your email address of record in the [AAUW Member Services Database](#), please go to the Member Services Database by March 22 and make sure your email address is current. The [2020 Voter Guide](#) contains information on updating your email address.

The online voting will open on April 26 and close on May 16 at 11:45 p.m. This is the second year we will be using software from ElectionBuddy, an outside vendor, for the election so carefully monitor your incoming emails. We'll let you know when the link to the online ballot has been emailed so in case you do not receive it, you can check your email "Junk" or "Spam" files.

Any questions concerning the election can be directed to Leslie Tourigny ([ltourigny@gmail.com](mailto:ltourigny@gmail.com)) or Sandy Lawrence ([sandyaauw@juno.com](mailto:sandyaauw@juno.com))

Thanks to the candidates who are running for the AAUW of Virginia state board, and thanks to all of our members for the extraordinary job they are doing. You've put us on the map!!

Leslie Tourigny and Carol Stephens  
AAUW of Virginia Co-Presidents

## Renew Your Dues for 2020-2021

***Now is the time to renew!*** We need your voice and energy. Membership dues should be paid by June 30, 2020. Membership dues are \$92--national \$59, state \$15, and local \$18.

***THE EASIEST WAY IS TO PAY ON-LINE after you receive a dues notice from AAUW around April 10.*** Once you receive the email to renew from AAUW, click on the link, enter your credit card number, and your membership is renewed in less than 30 seconds. Look for that email and renew that day!



However, if you prefer to renew by check, please send your check for \$92, made payable to Falls Church AAUW to: Anne Baxter, FC AAUW Treasurer, 3440 S. Jefferson St., Apt. 527, Falls Church, VA 22041-3124.

***PLEASE DO NOT SEND*** your dues payment directly to National AAUW. You will not be listed as a Falls Church branch member.

## Public Policy

### Virginia General Assembly Update

After a very busy two months, the Virginia General Assembly adjourned on Thursday, March 12. The legislators are scheduled to reconvene on April 22 for a one-day "veto session" to consider any amendments the Governor made to the bills passed by the General Assembly and to override any vetoes. The following is a summary of the action taken on legislation of interest to AAUW.

Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment – The General Assembly passed this resolution making Virginia the needed 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This measure does not need the Governor's signature.



Equal Pay – Although action on the Equal Pay Act was continued to the 2021 session, portions of the Act, which take steps toward ensuring men and women are paid equally for equal work, were enacted. Bills prohibiting employers from retaliating against employees who share wage information with each other and prohibiting employers from basing a new employee's salary on his/her previous salary or requiring potential employees to share past

wage history were also passed.

Minimum Wage Increase – The General Assembly enacted legislation to increase the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$9.50 on January 1, 2021; to \$11 on January 1, 2022; to \$12 on January 1, 2023; to \$13.50 on January 1, 2025; and to \$15 on January 1, 2026, with the minimum wage thereafter linked to the consumer price index. However, the increases for 2025 and 2026 do not go into effect unless a future General Assembly passes these increases again. Additionally, the bill specifically covers home health care providers.

The equal pay and minimum pay measures are awaiting the Governor's signature.

### **Women's History Walk**

Each year, Falls Church has a Women's History Walk through the City at which Falls Church women who have made history and/or have made important contributions to the City are honored. Various Falls Church organizations participate with booths or tables highlighting their activities, and our AAUW Branch has participated in the past. Unfortunately, this year's Walk, scheduled for May 3, has been postponed due to the Governor's "stay-at-home" order. The organizers are hoping to hold the Walk sometime in the Fall. When a date is set, it will be advertised in the FLASH.

Additionally, the Women's History Group has been working to create permanent signs for the women who are honored each year at the Walk. Our Branch has purchased a sign which will honor **Leah Porzel**. For those of you who did not have the good fortune to know her, she was a long-time member of our Branch, serving as President from 1968 – 1972; our representative to and secretary of the AAUW Metropolitan Mass Media Committee; and Chair of the following Branch activities: International Relations, Great Decisions Study Group, Topic and Cookbooks for Scholarship Fundraising. She was also a leader in the establishment of Aurora House, a community-based residential counseling center for teenage girls. Aurora House is one of the organizations to which we have donated some of the funds raised at our book sale. Long-time Branch members still talk about the wonderful Christmas parties and dinners she hosted. Members who knew her describe her as warm and wonderful and the soul of the Falls Church Branch of AAUW.



## Advocacy in a Time of Social Distancing



You can make your views heard about important issues facing women today without leaving your home by becoming an AAUW Action Network Two-Minute Activist. If you have not already done so, join today; just click on the following link:

<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/#> and fill out the form.

As a Two-Minute Activist, you will receive e-mail notices when your advocacy is most

needed. You'll be provided with sample letters and talking points that you can use to call or send messages to Members of Congress, your state legislators and other government officials or to write a Letter to the Editor of your local newspaper. With your help, the Action Network can continue to boost AAUW's influence on Capitol Hill and in statehouses across the nation.



## This Equal Pay Day, Covid-19 Amplifies Inequities

March 26, 2020



### Statement on Equal Pay Day

Kim Churches, CEO of the American Association of University Women, issued this statement in advance of Equal Pay Day, which will be marked on March 31.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is creating a seismic shift in our lives and in the U.S. economy. Our hearts go out to everyone impacted by this crisis — as does our promise to work even harder on their behalf. In these challenging times, we are doubling down on our efforts to fight for the economic security of American women and their families, as we have done for the past 140 years.

This is typically the time we mark the annual Equal Pay Day, when women symbolically catch up to men's average earnings from the previous year. In addition to noting this date (March 31), this year we are taking a wider view to focus on how the pandemic is amplifying and exacerbating all of the nation's economic inequities.

The issues we have long been fighting for are now alarmingly urgent: Low-wage workers — 54 percent of whom are women — are bearing the brunt of the coronavirus pandemic as they lose jobs by the millions. Those who've been working part time — again predominantly women — often don't have basic employee benefits, including health insurance coverage. The increasing numbers of gig workers also have no benefits.

The nation's lack of paid sick and family leave is endangering both the physical and economic wellbeing of countless American families. Retired women — who are twice as likely as men to be living at or below the poverty line — are more vulnerable than ever. And the burden of student debt — two-thirds of which is held by women — feels especially onerous for those who are unemployed.

We are confident that the severity of the crisis will eventually lessen, and as it does, society will turn its collective attention to rebuilding the economy. Throughout the coming weeks, months and years, AAUW will accelerate our efforts to address the persistent and underlying inequities that are crucial for a full recovery. Together we can ensure that we end up with a better, more economically secure world for women”.

Kim Churches is available for interviews. Contact Mary C. Hickey.

## How to Coronavirus-Proof your Home

By Scottie Andrew, CNN

Life under coronavirus means staying at home as much as possible — but you'll likely need to make a trip to the grocery store or pharmacy at some point. Download or print this tip sheet to make sure you don't bring the virus back home with you.

Note: Recommendations for Covid-19 may change as officials learn more, so monitor your local health department and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) for updates.

### Make a game plan

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- Designate one person to be your errand-runner to limit your outside exposures
- Set up a disinfecting station — an area outside your home or in a room with low foot traffic where you can disinfect packaged food

### When you're out

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- Avoid coming within less than six feet of others
- Wipe handles on carts or baskets while shopping
- You don't have to have gloves or a mask — just wash your hands frequently while you're out and avoid touching your face

### When you get back

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- [Wash your hands](#) with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Disinfect takeout boxes and packaged foods at your disinfecting station
- Thoroughly wash produce before putting it in your kitchen

## Disinfect

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- Disinfect everything you touch — doorknobs, light switches, keys, phone, keyboards, remotes, etc.
- Use [EPA-approved disinfectants](#) (these include Clorox Disinfecting Wipes and certain Lysol sprays) and leave surfaces wet for 3-5 minutes

## Delivery

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- Ask workers to drop deliveries off on your doorstep or an area of your complex
- If they need you to come to the door, keep six feet of distance
- Pay and tip online when possible
- After you pick up mail from your mailbox, wash your hands

## Laundry

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- Wash clothes, towels and linens regularly on the warmest setting
- Disinfect your laundry hamper, too, or place a removable liner inside it
- Don't shake dirty laundry to avoid dispersing the virus in the air

## Guests

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- You shouldn't allow guests over right now
- If you need to house a family member or friend, avoid shared living spaces as much as you can
- If they need to enter shared living spaces, ask them to keep six feet of distance

## If someone in your home gets sick

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- First, consult your doctor
- Isolate them in another room and ask them to use a separate restroom
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces every day
- Avoid sharing items with them
- Wear gloves when washing their laundry
- Continue to wash your hands frequently
- Ask them to wear a face mask if they have one

## Supplies you'll need

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- EPA-approved disinfectants
- If you don't have disinfectants, make a bleach solution:
  - Mix four teaspoons bleach per quart of water; or
  - Use a 70% alcohol solution
- Laundry detergent
- Trash bags
- Prescription medicines (you can mail order these)
- Canned foods — fruits, veggies, beans
- Dry goods — breads, pastas, nut butters
- Frozen foods — meats, veggies, fruits

## Pets

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- Supervise your pet in your backyard
- It's [OK to play with them](#) outside — just keep your distance from other humans
- If you're sick, ask someone you live with to take care of them while you recover
- If you must care for them while you're sick, wash your hands frequently



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## Sources:

- [Dr. Leana Wen](#), former Baltimore City Health Commissioner and an emergency physician and public health professor at George Washington University in Washington.
- [Dr. Koushik Kasanagottu](#), an internal medicine resident physician at John Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland, and who is among the thousands of health care professionals treating patients with coronavirus.
- [Dr. Richard Kuhn](#), a virologist, director of the Purdue Institute of Inflammation, Immunology and Infectious Disease and editor-in-chief of the journal "Virology."
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

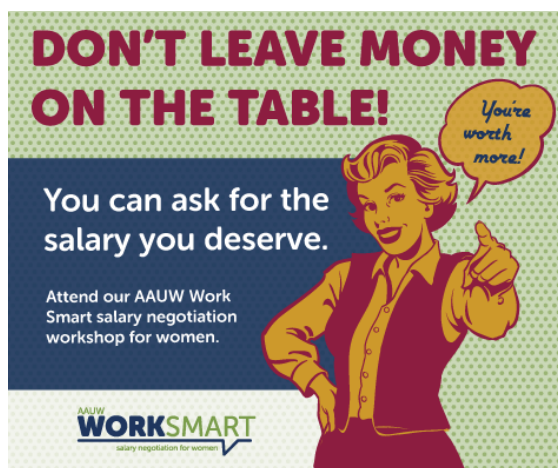
## What to do? Ways to Spend Your Day!

<https://mailchi.mp/nara/visit-the-national-archives-online-book-talks-panel-discussions-online-exhibits-education-resources-and-more?e=512429031d#Citizen%20Archivist>

Another great resource:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/26/cnn-underscored/virtual-museums/index.html>

## SMARTSTART/ WORK SMART



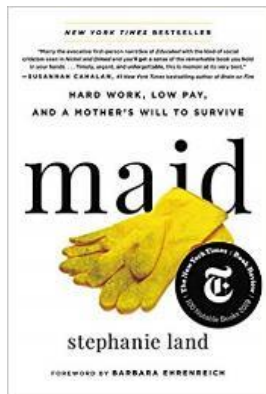
As you are probably aware, AAUW challenged itself to train 100,000 people in StartSmart/WorkSmart salary negotiations by August 22, 2019. AAUW also encouraged all members to take the training and spread the word. The training is still available and the ability to negotiate on one's own behalf is always important.

AAUW writer Beth Haynes, a member of the Board of Directors said: "I thought I didn't need the training. I've been out of the workforce for more than 20 years. But then I started thinking about all of the ways that training in negotiations could have helped me in the last couple of years. I bought a new car. I helped my 93- year-old

friend secure an apartment in an assisted living facility. I'm a certified parliamentarian and I have to negotiate contracts with groups who need parliamentary services. So, the negotiating training really is designed for me." And, she said, "It's probably designed for all of your members as well, regardless of whether they are in the workforce."

We encourage you to sign up at <https://salary.aauw.org/> . It doesn't take very long and it will pay off—personally for you and your friends and family who take the training.

## Book Club News



Our FC AAUW book club is going to do a Zoom meeting online since we can't meet in person. We will be discussing the book "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay and a Mother's Will to Survive" by Stephanie Land.

Just copy the URL into your browser and join us on the 14th.

Pauline Rosenstein is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: My Meeting

Time: Apr 14, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/111569238?pwd=MTVFRG0wSWo1dTJON0YxVXFCeIdTd09>

Meeting ID: 111 569 238

Password: 016588

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 14	7:30pm	Book Club via Zoom
April 18	1:00pm	AAUW VA Annual Business Meeting (online)
April 26-May 16		Vote in AAUW VA election- watch for e mails!

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, and socioeconomic status.

