

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH



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May 3, 2021

Co- Presidents' Message



Dear Members:

May is always a month to which we look forward. AAUW Falls Church Area branch members should be excited and proud of our continuing work to provide access to college for various Falls Church area high school seniors. At our May meeting, we will meet and



recognize the winners of the Falls Church Area Branch scholarships. We would like everyone to attend to recognize these young women, all that they have already accomplished, and their hopes for the future. Eric Welch, of Justice High School in Falls Church, who heads the AVID program, will also speak at the meeting. AVID has provided tremendous support and encouragement for many of our scholarship winners, particularly those who are the first generation in their families

to attend college. Christy Hanlon, Director of Student Services at Justice HS will also join us. They will speak on challenges and successes of teaching during a pandemic and answer questions.

Please join the meeting (via Zoom), **which will begin 30 minutes earlier than usual**, at 7:00 p.m. on May 10. **The Zoom invitation will be sent to you on May 3.**

We are also looking forward to meeting in person on Monday, June 14, at the picnic shelter in Cherry Hill Park in Falls Church. We will continue to take COVID precautions: each person will bring her own food and drink; and we will observe social distancing inside the shelter. More details later this month. How great it will be to see each other! Perhaps we can share lists of good books we have read during the lockdown, or of local field trips we are interested in making! For now, enjoy the flowers, cherry blossoms and redbuds blooming and plan to join the May Scholarship meeting on Zoom.

On March 8, 2021, we elected Shannon LaBarbera as Vice President-Membership and Linda Lawrence as Treasurer. Please reach out to them and express your gratitude for their taking on these responsibilities. The organization could not function without our efforts and contributions as volunteers. **We are still looking for a woman to serve as webmaster.** We would very much like to hear from one of you willing to give it a try. Please consider volunteering and learning a new skill.

Vote! AAUW of Virginia -2021 Election

In April, AAUW Virginia sent an email to members with an invitation to **vote for State Board Members and policy changes by the deadline tomorrow**. A second email was sent last week to remind you to vote. The policy change would elevate the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair to a vice-president. If this bylaw is approved, the first election for that position will take place in 2022, to begin on July 1, 2022.

We look forward to seeing you at our May 10 meeting. Stay tuned for additional details via email.

Sharon Zackula and Elizabeth Kessel
Co-Presidents

Next Branch Zoom Meeting

Be inspired and be informed! Come **meet our newly awarded high school scholarship winners**. While we can't all congratulate them in person, they've each been invited to our Monday, **May 10th 7:00 pm** Zoom meeting. Following presentation of this year's winners by our Scholarship Committee, we're very pleased to also have two speakers from Justice High School. **Eric Welch (AVID Coordinator) and Christy Hanlon (Director of Student Services) will share their experiences during this pandemic school year**, discussing both challenges and successes. Afterward, they'll be available to answer our questions. Be sure to join us on Monday, May 10th.



Renew Your Dues for 2021-2022

**FALLS CHURCH AAUW MEMBERS ARE AWESOME.
NEARLY 50% OF YOU HAVE RENEWED YOUR DUES.**

We need your voice and energy. Membership dues should be paid by June 30, 2021. Membership dues are \$95--national \$62, state \$15, and local \$18. National AAUW dues increased \$3 this year, as approved by membership at a previous convention.

THE EASIEST WAY IS TO PAY ON-LINE via the link you receive from AAUW to pay your dues.(last one sent on April 27). You will get another link on May 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! Over 90% of our branch used this method to pay their dues last year.

However, if you prefer to renew by check, please send your check for \$95, 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.

Linda Lawrence, our new branch Treasurer, will take office on July 1, 2021. She and I will work together to ensure a seamless transition. Linda looks forward to working with the branch Board and members.

Thanks for your prompt action on paying your 2021-2022 dues!

Linda Lawrence, Incoming Treasurer
Anne Baxter, Outgoing Treasurer (2017-2021)

Welcome a New Member



Please welcome April to our branch at our Zoom meeting on May 10. She earned her B.S At Newberry College. She has a Masters in English Education (Science) from Nova Southeastern University. April is currently working on her PhD at Walden University in Philosophy of Education, Specialization in

Learning Instruction & Innovation.

April Riser
120 Chanel Terrace, #201
Falls Church, VA
(571)733-7953 home & cell
riser.reads@gmail.com

Voting on By-Laws changes for National AAUW

“The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW’s bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to the educational attainment of all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do”



“Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW’s inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission, and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.”

“We encourage respectful debate that has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community. Please... exercise your vote this spring.”

— AAUW Board of Directors

Key Talking Points for Elimination of the Membership Requirement



1. The reasons we should drop the education requirement are simply:

- Because it is the right thing to do
- Because it is in keeping with our mission to advance gender equity

2. Eliminating the degree requirement will bring AAUW membership criteria in line with its mission – to advance gender equity.

3. Greater diversity can only strengthen AAUW and our ability to advance equity.

4. Times have changed and society has changed.

AAUW strives to meet our mission and society’s needs today.

5. AAUW empowers women. How does keeping the membership requirement help you empower women?

6. Just like our founding mothers, we can be role models for positive change in the world. But we cannot have the impact we seek when our membership criteria don’t match our mission and values.

7. AAUW is unique due to our breadth of programming, research, policy and advocacy, fellowships & grants, and most importantly, a grassroots membership that can be mobilized to fight for what we believe in. We should open this powerful grassroots network up to all who want to join the fight.

8. Education comes in many forms. Those who do not have degrees can still be strong advocates for our mission.

9. AAUW must evolve to survive.

Still undecided? Watch the following video on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbwWYZCmJCs>

Public Policy

Paycheck Fairness Act Passes House

After 24 years of dedicated advocacy, AAUW's lobbying efforts paid off! On April 15, the House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R.7) by a bipartisan vote of 217-210. If enacted, this legislation would take meaningful steps to strengthen and update the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to help close the gender pay gap and ensure equal pay for equal work.



The bill now goes to the Senate for its consideration. That's where you come in. Write to Senators Warner and Kaine, urging them to support the Paycheck Fairness Act when this important legislation comes before the Senate for a vote. AAUW makes it easy to contact our Senators. Just go to AAUW's Two-minute Activist page for Paycheck Fairness (<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/paycheck-fairness/>). There you'll find a brief description of this vital legislation as well as a form to complete with your contact information. Once you complete the form, you will be directed to a sample letter addressed to our Virginia Senators that you can send as is or edit to include your own experiences. Let's keep the momentum going to ensure that the Paycheck Fairness Act becomes law soon!

Virginia Primary Elections

It is time to vote again! Primary Elections will be held on June 8 to select the Democratic and Republican candidates for the November elections for the House of Delegates. Democratic candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General will also be chosen at that time, while the Republican candidates for those positions will be chosen at a State Convention on May 8. Voters can vote in either party's primary, but not both. A list of important dates related to the primaries is at the end of this newsletter. The list is hyperlinked, providing more information about the voting process and includes lists of candidates for the three statewide offices.



Voting absentee in person or by mail as well as in person on Election Day are all available options for voting in these elections. The deadlines for doing so are all given on the following list. Participating in the electoral process is an important civic duty. Let's all participate and encourage our family and friends to do likewise.

McLean Area Branch

We have a special meeting where we will be celebrating our Named Honorees, our High School Science Fair winner, our branch accomplishments this year and YOU, our branch members. And our featured speaker will discuss *The Road to Justice, Female Voices on the Supreme Court*.

Zoom meeting Saturday, May 8 at 12:00pm featuring a discussion on "Pioneer Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg" by Professor Barbara A. Perry.



Barbara A. Perry is the Gerald L. Baliles Professor and Director of Presidential Studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Center, where she co-directs the Presidential Oral History Program. She has authored or edited 16 books on presidents, First Ladies, the Kennedy family, the Supreme Court, and civil rights and civil liberties. Professor Perry has conducted more than 100 interviews for the George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama Presidential Oral History Projects and she directs the Edward Kennedy Oral History Project. She served as

a U.S. Supreme Court fellow and has worked for both Republican and Democratic members of the Senate.

Click [here](#) for more information

If you are not in the McLean Area Branch of AAUW and wish to receive a link to the meeting, please click [here](#).



Movies, anyone?

In May, the film group will be discussing the 2020 docudrama **The Social Dilemma**. The film focuses on how social media's design is meant to foster an addiction, manipulate "users," and spread misinformation. The film also examines the serious issue of social media's effect on mental health. The group will meet virtually to discuss the film on Wednesday, May 12th at 7:00 PM. All are invited to join us. **No ticket required**. For more details, call or text Aida Loomis at 703 966 8050.



June: **Let's Go To The Movies? What's Next?**

Book Club News

Time for book nominations:

Hello, members - It's time to nominate books for our Fall selections. We have some exciting new categories for the Fall, and we hope you will give us your input. Everyone can nominate, even if you have never been to a book club meeting.

Here are the categories:

1. memoir/biography
2. book by a contemporary D.C. writer (google Writers from Washington, D.C. for suggestions)
3. Book by a Foreign Author (21st century)
4. Poetry

Send to me [prosenstein at hotmail.com](mailto:prosenstein@hotmail.com) your nominations by midnight Thursday May 13th. You may nominate one book per category.

NEXT UP: Tuesday May 18th 7:30 P.M. Zoom meeting:



Contemporary fiction: ***The Vanishing Half*** by **Brit Bennett**

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect? 343 pages

Zoom invitation will be sent the day before. Polly Rosenstein for FC AAUW Book Group

Editors' Note: 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 the newsletter, it will be written as follows: pammartinov at 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 8	12:00pm	McLean Branch- "Pioneer Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg"
May 10	7:00pm	Falls Church Branch Meeting via Zoom- Scholarship winners, Eric Welch and Christy Hanlon
May 12	7:00pm	Movie Group Zoom Meeting
May 18	7:30pm	Book Club Zoom Meeting- <i>The Vanishing Half</i>
May 24	7:30pm	FC AAUW Board Meeting

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.



Important Dates for Virginia Democratic & Republican Primaries (June 8, 2021)



Ongoing (See 5/28 deadline below)	Register to vote
Ongoing	Check and, if necessary, update registration information
Ongoing (see deadline below)	Apply to vote absentee by mail
April 24	Early in-person voting for Democratic & Republican Primaries begins
May 17	Deadline to register to vote our update registration (in person or receipt by mail) for Democratic & Republican Primaries
May 28, 5 p.m.	Deadline to apply to request an absentee ballot for Democratic & Republican primaries
June 5, 5 p.m.	Deadline for early in-person voting at your local registrar for Democratic & Republican primaries
June 8	Democratic & Republican Primaries Election Day Voting at assigned polling places (Democratic: Governor, Lt Governor, Attorney General, VA House) (Republican: VA House of Delegate local offices)

[Candidates for Governor](#)

[Candidates for Lt. Governor](#)

[Candidates for Attorney General](#)

[Candidates for Virginia House of Delegates](#)