



## Public Policy Updates **Consult, Lobby, Inform, March Make a Difference in 2003/04!**



### **Plan now to meet with your newly elected legislators**

As you read this, Election Day is over and new senators and delegates have been elected to represent the citizens of Virginia during the legislative session in Richmond beginning in January 2004. Regardless of the outcomes of the elections, your voice needs to be heard by your representatives. The ideal time to do this is now. Call your elected representatives and set up a meeting prior to the start of the new session. Meet with her (or him) on their home turf and let them know that you are an interested constituent with educated opinions. Provide them with position papers on major issues, share statistics that you may have on a specific topic; legislators need your input. Offer to act as a resource for them on areas within your expertise. From our travels across the state, we know that AAUW members have the knowledge and experience to act as consultants on a wide variety of issues.

### **Lobby Day in Richmond**

Put January 28, 2004 on your calendars as your day to be in Richmond networking with AAUW members and lobbying your legislators. (You will find the registration form on page 11 in this issue of the *Vision*.) Organize carpools from your branches and attend this event beginning with a continental breakfast at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, followed by attendance at the League of Women Voter's Roundtable, lobbying legislators, and receiving updates on AAUW of Virginia's legislative positions. First time lobbyists will be paired with "veterans." Talking points and position papers will be provided. Be involved, have fun and share in the excitement and energy of the legislative process.

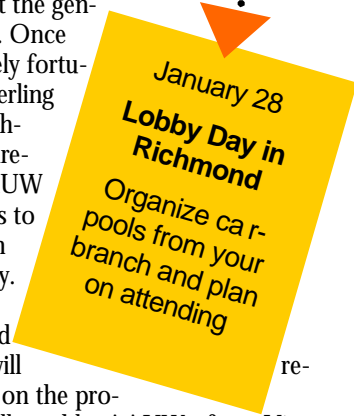
### **Legislative Activity**

As of this writing, there are no pre-filed bills on the legislative website. However, we anticipate that several bills concerning reproductive choice will be introduced. In addition, tax credits for families with children in private schools will more than likely be introduced in one form or another. AAUW of Virginia will be following legislation concerning education, reproductive choice, children and family issues, and gun show loopholes throughout the general assembly session. Once again, we are extremely fortunate to have Anne Sterling as our lobbyist in Richmond. Anne works tirelessly to promote AAUW of Virginia's positions to all of the legislators in the General Assembly.

Branch presidents and public policy chairs will receive weekly updates on the progress of bills being followed by AAUW of Virginia during the General Assembly session. This information should be forwarded out to branch members. If you do not receive the weekly updated bill-tracking grid, please e-mail [rplum\[at\]cox.net](mailto:rplum[at]cox.net) and it will be sent to you. Become actively involved. If you want to come to Richmond to talk with legislators and work for AAUW, don't wait for lobby day. There are committee meetings and lobbying chores to be done every day of the week during the session and your help will be greatly appreciated.

### **Coalition with Voices For Virginia's Children**

As all of you are aware, AAUW of Virginia is focusing on children at risk. We have signed on as an endorser of the Children's Agenda put forth by Voices for Virginia's Children. The Children's Agenda Campaign is a nonpartisan effort to de-



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# From the President

In a *Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens wrote that, "These are the best of times and the worst of times." For women in AAUW, these are indeed the "Best of Times," or are they the "Worst of Times"?

Considerable legislation and judicial activity has been passed/ruled that has had a positive impact on the lives of women and children. From the right to vote to maintaining the integrity of Title IX, women have advanced towards equality in our society. These are the "Best of Times." Or are they? There has been major legislation proposed and some passed that will erode programs, such as Head Start, that assist those children most at risk. Women's right to choice is being diminished by legislative activity and judges are being nominated who have records unfavorable to equity for women. Could these be the "Worst of Times"?

For AAUW, these are the "Best of Times." In October, the Educational Foundation announced it had awarded 195 fellowships, grants, and scholar-in-residence awards totaling \$3.4 million. LAF has filed as amicus curiae for a substantial number of cases challenging discrimination against women faculty in higher education. Many of these cases have been favorably litigated. Major research has been published addressing such issues as hostile hallways, women and technology, and women at work. And the Association has initiated a leadership development program for undergraduate college women. These are the "Best of Times." Or are they?

AAUW nationwide, including Virginia, is addressing a very critical issue similar to that of all women's groups, a diminished membership base. A diminished membership means fewer women sharing the richness that is inherent with being surrounded by so many diverse, intelligent, and creative members. A diminished membership means fewer women actively engaged in fighting

to make the world more equitable for our daughters. A diminished membership means fewer resources with which to provide programs. Could these be the "Worst of Times"? Consider how you can help relieve this diminished membership.

AAUW is at a challenging crossroads in its development. Even though AAUW is older than most of the other women's organizations in this state, AAUW faces many of the same challenges, among which are a diminished pool of volunteers and limited economic resources. In addition, in order to maintain its leadership position on women's issues, AAUW may need to redefine its mission, broaden its membership base, and reorganize its operating procedures. These challenges can be met with energy, creativity, and dedication to the organization. So maybe, these are the "Best of Times."

As your state president, I look forward to working with all of you to confront the inherent challenges in continuing to provide the outstanding leadership in women's issues that AAUW has provided in the past. As I think about my predecessors, I see many devoted and competent state presidents and members. Their dedication, commitment and work for women's equality in the past has positioned AAUW in the present as the leader in this state on women's issues. Your efforts to continue this leadership position are needed now. Help to make this the "Best of Times" for AAUW. And Remember:

**"Well-behaved women  
rarely make history."**

Historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

With hope,  
Theresa M. Merkel  
AAUW of VA State President

# PURPOSE POWER PROGRESS

**A**s I sit down to compose an article for this issue of the *Vision*, I am reflecting on my recent participation in the AAUW Board of Directors meeting. It was an inspiring and stimulating experience for me as your regional director. The meeting provided me with an awareness of the strong commitment and enthusiasm of AAUW members throughout our organization.

As part of our work at the board meeting, we adopted the theme of *Purpose, Power, Progress* for the work of this biennium. This theme will be used in conferences, conventions, and publications and reflects the energy of our organization and its volunteers and staff. We are steadfast in our mission—the *purpose*, we are influential—the *power*, and we are moving forward at a rapid pace—the *progress*.

Leaders at the Association level and in Virginia show with their work and energy how AAUW's mission is making a difference for women and girls. I hope that you take the same pride that I do in the leaders of your state and AAUW. They are awesome women doing awesome work. Support them with your energy, your time, your talent, and your caring.

The Association Board of Directors has adopted several goals for its work this year: *leadership development*, ensuring that there is diversity in leadership and that new leaders are being fostered at all levels in organization; *membership*, working to find new populations while ensuring retention and relevant programming; *communication*, ensuring that leaders have the information needed to do their work by strong use of technology and the AAUW website; *financial awareness, stability and focus*, ensuring the wisest use of available resources; and *successful board restructuring*, as Association leaders work to streamline operations while having an informed leadership throughout the organization.

As part of its efforts to reach these goals, the board has three working groups to implement programs and projects related to these goals: *support for states and branches, Association committee appointments process, and leadership and diversity*. At its recent meeting, the board committed to the development and implementation of a diversity plan by June 2004 that will be ongoing for five years.

The AAUW website has been totally revamped. It is now much easier to navigate, updated constantly and full of information to help leaders and members at all levels. Make it a regular site to check out, and try it when you need to make membership changes, find forms, or other information – [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). On the website you'll also find new toolkits for branch finance officers and membership vice presidents. A new checklist on the website lets leaders know what communications have been sent to members (check under "calendar"). *AAUW Action Alert* is now available on-line as well.

Be sure to check out a new AAUW publication, *Mission in Action*, a new on-line newsletter sent to all members for whom the membership department has e-mail addresses. If you would like to receive this newsletter, go to the AAUW website and register your e-mail address.

All Association publications have been completely redesigned, bringing a universal look to all publications of the organization. Be sure that your branch gets copies of the new membership brochures produced by AAUW. They look good and are great tools for attracting new members to your branch.

Just as at the Association, states in the South Atlantic Region are struggling with issues like membership retention and recruitment, leadership development, training and nurturing of future leaders, support for current leaders, informed leadership, effective communications to all members and leaders, and programs that reflect AAUW's mission. I am working with all the states of SAR to make a difference in these areas as well.

I hope that you have marked your calendar for the *South Atlantic/Southeast Central Regional Conference*, which will be held June 11-13, 2004, at the new Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center. Join members from 13 states for a weekend of inspiration, excitement, networking, and learning.

Tentative program plans include an opening night program with women authors from the Southeast, programs on public policy, Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund, and a leadership development workshop on Sunday. One highlight of the conference will be the participation of top female student athletes from universities in both regions. There will also be the opportunity for state EF sales, and for dinner and networking on Saturday night.

The proposed conference rate is \$125, which includes all materials, extensive breakfast buffet and lunch on Saturday. Spacious rooms with two queen beds will be \$119 + tax and can house up to four. As details of the conference develop, they will be posted on the conference website— [www.onedomain.com/AAUW](http://www.onedomain.com/AAUW) — which is also linked directly to the Virginia website.

I appreciate all that each of you does, whether you be a leader or a member, and can never thank you enough for caring about AAUW and its mission.

*Ann S. Terry, South Atlantic Regional Director*  
[annsterry\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:annsterry[at]yahoo.com)

**Come to the  
South Atlantic/  
Southeast Central  
Regional Conference**

**June 11–13, 2004**

**Atlanta, GA at the  
new Georgia Tech  
Hotel & Conf. Center**

**Members from  
13 States**

**Opening Night with  
Southern  
Women Authors**

**Leadership  
Workshop**

**Programs on Public  
Policy, EF, LAF**

**And More!**



# Call for AAUW VA Resolution and/or Bylaws Amendment Proposals

**The deadline is February 15, 2004 for proposed resolutions and bylaws amendments to be voted on at the AAUW of Virginia Convention '04.** They are to be submitted to me for committee review by mail to 3031 Hopkins Drive, Massanutten 22840 or by e-mail to merrowee[at]jmu.edu.

Each proposed resolution must include

1. The proposed resolution
2. A statement of the rationale for the proposed resolution
3. A proposed plan for the implementation of the resolution

A resolution may encourage statewide branch study or action on an issue; it may establish a state position on an issue; or it may express appreciation, offer congratulations, etc.

Each proposed bylaw amendment must include

1. The proposed bylaw amendment with article and section designated
2. The section of bylaws with additions & deletions shown
3. The section of bylaws as it would read with amendment made
4. A statement of the rationale for the proposed amendment

A bylaws amendment should substantially alter and improve the way AAUW Virginia does business.

**A bylaws amendment should substantially alter and improve the way AAUW VA does business.**

An individual member, a branch, the AAUW VA Board of Directors, or an AAUW VA committee may submit resolutions or bylaws amendments.

Each proposed resolution and bylaw amendment will be reviewed by the resolutions committee or the bylaws committee, respectively, which are appointed by the AAUW of Virginia president, Theresa Merkel. This review will determine whether the proposal is in keeping with state and Association policies, with

policies and legislative programs, and with previously adopted resolutions. The review process may also include clarification and/or rewording of a resolution or amendment.

The 2003-04 resolutions committee members are Denise Decker (Arlington), Becky Bronson (Winchester), and Janet Schwartz (Richmond). The 2003-04 bylaws committee members are Jenny Sue Murdock (Roanoke Valley), Susana Hernandez-Kurtulus (Bon Air Area), and Dr. Joy Hendrickson (Hampton).

Alternatively, resolutions may be submitted on the state convention floor. In this case, they require a two-thirds vote by the body to hear the resolution and then a three-fourths vote to adopt, as opposed to a majority for resolutions reported out by the committee. Bylaws amendments may be submitted on the convention floor but require a unanimous vote for adoption. Additionally, 250 copies of all parts of any resolution or bylaws amendment submitted on the convention floor must be provided in order for the item to be considered.

**A resolution may encourage statewide branch study or action on an issue, establish a state position on an issue, or express appreciation, offer congratulations, etc.**

Theresa Merkel, state president, will assign a board member and branch responsibility for each resolution adopted at convention. These responsibilities will be to report to the next three conventions on the progress of the resolution and to prepare and send a letter, signed by the president, to the appropriate person(s), agency, etc.

Please refer to the AAUW of Virginia Bylaws, Article XIV, Section 4 for more on resolutions, and to Article XIX for more on bylaws amendments. A copy of Association bylaws and policies is available from the AAUW Member Helpline, 800/821-4364.

Please contact Bylaws & Resolutions Chair Lorie Merrow for assistance at 3031 Hopkins Drive, Massanutten, VA 22840 or at the contacts noted below.

*Lorie Merrow, Bylaws and Resolutions Chair  
merrowee[at]jmu.edu*

## AAUW Convention Addendum

The page one article in the Fall issue of the *Vision* on the 2003 Association Convention omitted the mention of the two convention workshops run by Marian Stillson: *Local, State, and National Advocacy—AAUW Style* and *Running for AAUW National Office*. Marion also co-chaired two briefings sessions with Neola Waller on proposed resolutions and presented public policy related resolutions to the entire convention assembly.

## Communications

### Need an Extra Vision?

Current and past issues of the *Virginia Vision* are posted on the AAUW VA website(www.aauwofva.org). Go to the website and print out one or more copies to give to friends and prospective members.

### New Online Newsletter

Check out *Mission in Action*, a new online newsletter sent to all members for whom the membership department has e-mail addresses. To receive this newsletter, go to the AAUW website (www.aauw.org) and register your e-mail address.

## Why Are They a Member of AAUW?

**Doris Neudorfer, Smith Mountain Branch, SW District Rep. and Ann Laing, Wytheville Branch Co-President**

Doris: *“I am a member of AAUW because I want to keep informed about national issues, political issues, and because of the sisterhood, friendships, and person to person contacts.”*

Ann: *“I am a member of AAUW because I like the national message of women empowering women. I love the people in the local branch and we have a good time and learn a lot from our programs.”*

**Lotty Hebblethwaite, Roanoke Valley Branch**

*“AAUW is an opportunity to spend time with smart, opinionated, feisty, insightful women.”*

**Julia Xu, Blacksburg Area Branch**

*“I joined because the AAUW mission can help women to improve their role and to contribute to this community.”*

*“... there are MANY educated women and men in all of our communities who share our mission. To find them, we need open-mindedness and tolerance. They may not look like us or mingle in our same social circles. But they believe in education and equity for women and girls. Therefore, our thought for the month is as follows:*

*‘Minds are like parachutes; they only function when open.’*

Thomas Dewar

*Open Mind + Open Arms = Increased Membership*

*OM + OA = IM”*

Jeannette Phillips, AAUW Membership Committee Chair

### **Congratulations to Branches with Membership Increases!**

Charlottesville	+7
Blacksburg Area	+4
Hampton	+3
Northern Virginia Online	+1
Wytheville	+1

## Mt. Vernon Fosters Reading Connection

**A**loyal cadre of Mt. Vernon AAUW Branch members living near the Route 1 Corridor in Fairfax County has maintained the Reading Connection Program for the last five years. The Reading Connection is a literacy program for children in family shelters. The Route 1 Corridor is home to many families in economic distress, many immigrant families, and a high percentage of transitory residents, particularly since the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Many low-income Fairfax County families that were dependent on restaurant and hotel jobs suddenly found their income cut off with the downturn in the hospitality industry. This economic disaster has added to all the other circumstances that force families into homeless shelters.

Mt. Vernon Branch volunteers have found the AAUW Reading Connection Program to be a much appreciated and a personally rewarding way to contribute to the community. Team volunteers include some husbands of members. The children respond particularly well to the male readers, attesting to their need for attention from absent father figures. The team brings books and a craft on each monthly visit. Depending on the ages and number of the children present, team members assist with the craft and read to the children or listen as the children read aloud. Each child may select two donated books to keep, often the first books the child has owned. The objective is to foster a love of reading and to show the children a world outside their present circumstances so that hopes and dreams stay alive.

*Mary Ellen Mehler, Co-president  
memehler[at]msn.com*

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## Successful September Kick-off for Falls Church

**T**he Falls Church Area Branch had a wonderful September branch meeting with two special speakers and many guests (thanks to e-mailed invitations to other Northern Virginia branch members). Azar Nafisi, of the Johns Hopkins international studies program, and Mary Bayat, a local realtor, both Iranian-Americans, challenged us with personal views of life in a totalitarian state, a perspective we rarely hear. Nafisi's passionate presentation on individual rights and choices, using literary giants such as Jane Austen, encouraged us to consider the role of litera-

ture and culture in a new way.

Falls Church coordinated publicity for the October 18<sup>th</sup> AAUW VA Northern Virginia District joint meeting featuring AAUW LAF supported plaintiff, Kathy Sokol. The branch had good turnout at the thought-provoking session, plus one of our members was the lucky winner of an LAF raffle basket. Later that evening, several members and guests enjoyed a mystery dinner, following clues to solve a murder at an English country manor over roast beef and Yorkshire pudding.

In November, branch members will again participate in the Glasgow Middle School Career Day. Our general meeting speaker will tell us about her recent experiences in Russia.

In January, we plan to visit the traveling exhibition of Enterprising Women: 250 Years of American Business at the Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.

As part of our continuing efforts to share information with other Northern Virginia branches, we are planning a joint February meeting with the Vienna Area Branch.

Members are already collecting and sorting books for our annual EF Used Book Sale, scheduled for April 2 and 3, 2004. Please remember to designate a portion of your EF contributions toward our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary American Fellowship (#4209) when you submit your annual EF forms in December.

*Martha Trunk and Becky Gaul, Co-Presidents  
mtrunk[at]erols.com  
rgaul[at]nsl.gov*

**Please remember  
to designate a  
portion of your  
EF contributions  
toward our 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
American  
Fellowship**

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## Portsmouth Has Stormy Beginning

**I**sabel provided the Portsmouth Branch a stormy beginning to the year as she roared through at hurricane strength, and the first meeting had to be postponed. The September program was a speaker from Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve. There were many in attendance, although not all had electricity restored by that time. Other speakers scheduled for the year are a local female bookstore owner; a representative from the "Portsmouth Reads" project; and the executive director and a board

member for Help and Emergency Response, the local battered and abused women's shelter.

Members are active in the monthly book club discussion group, in conducting showers to donate needed items for the HER shelter, in selling poinsettias for EF, and in providing docents once a month for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum.

The branch had seven members in attendance at the Hampton Roads District meeting in October, including District Representative Barbara Desler.

When the Portsmouth Branch needs help on a project, it is fortunate to have four honorary life members who set a wonderful example. The new co-presidents, absolute rookies, asked committee chairs to continue in their positions, and the chairs did so to a person. The branch is always evaluating its current activities and striving to strengthen program and membership.

*Lena Grant, Co-President  
lygrant[at]cox.net*

## Northern Virginia

### VIRGINIA BRANCHES IN ACTION

## GET THE RECOGNITION YOU DESERVE!!!

It is not too early for all the branches to start thinking about the state and association 21st Century Recognition applications. AAUW of Virginia did so well last year that we are expecting the same great kudos this year for the wonderful work the branches are doing. The form is being updated and will be sent to all the branch presidents and program vice presidents. An added feature will be the bonus points for the fantastic programs that branches are doing for "Children at Risk." This is the unifying theme for Virginia which brings together all of our branches who will be reinventing themselves with new programs or revitalized current programs that involve the Commonwealth's children at risk.

Some other terrific news is that the form has been combined and consolidated so that the information the branch provides is a "three fer" — it is good for the award on the state and Association levels, respectively, as well as for the convention booklet. That way, you can spend more time on worthwhile programming and less time on paperwork. AAUW of Virginia is on a roll! Remember your branch application is due on March 1.

*Nancy D. Joyner, Program Vice President  
dcdean[at]cox.net*

## Does It Again!

**A** AUW of Virginia's Northern District held a hugely successful LAF fundraiser on October 18, 2003 at George C. Marshall High School in Vienna, Virginia. The guest speaker was LAF plaintiff Kathy Sokol, who experienced sexual harassment in the late 1990s from her faculty colleagues at St. Louis Community College in the hospitality studies/tourism department. Kathy explained what actions prompted her grievance and the resulting response of the college administration. She also told of how her lawyer introduced her to LAF and suggested she apply for funding for her legal fees. This was quite fortuitous as the male lawyer explained that he only accepted 10 percent of the cases presented to him. He did feel that Kathy had a unique and interesting case and thus agreed to take it. At the end of the deliberations, Kathy received a \$55,000 settlement from the school and received quite a generous package. She is entitled to employment at the college, albeit at a different campus, until her retirement. However, she is now employed as a career counselor instead of as a professor/department chair in hospitality studies, which was her original position and where her true interests lie. In the future, she plans to write a book about her journey that will help others in similar situations.

Many members of the Northern Virginia branches enjoyed festivities that were held both the night before and directly after the meeting. Eight hundred dollars was raised for LAF through donations, raffle tickets, and contributions. A special thanks goes out to Myrna Brown, Mary K. Johnson, Lenore Waggoner, and Gail Osberg for organizing the event. Please send in your 2003 contributions to LAF **by December 15**. Checks may be mailed to: LAF, 1111 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 or you may mail them to me at Sally Sledge, 710 West Willow Point Place, Newport News, VA 23602.

Thanks for your support!

*Sally Sledge, AAUW VA LAF Chair  
ssledge[at]cnu.edu*

## “Public Policy”

(Continued from page 1)

velop a consensus agenda of policy objectives affecting children. The agenda has been endorsed in principle by more than 60 organizations. The agenda addresses issues such as school readiness, health, youth development and juvenile justice, school success K-12, empowering families and protecting children, and family economic self-sufficiency. We encourage branches to use the agenda as a basis for issues forums in your community. For more information go to [www.vakids.org](http://www.vakids.org) and click on “Legislation.”

### March on Washington: April 25, 2004

Just 30 years after the *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion, women’s reproductive freedom hangs by a thread. To demonstrate overwhelming majority support for a woman’s right to choose, legal abortion and birth control, the largest pro-choice majority in history will march on Washington on Sunday, April 25, 2004.

This pro-choice march, is a collaborative effort with four leading national women’s rights groups, The Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-Choice America, NOW, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America coming together as the principal organizers of the

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**Get Ready!**

**Pro Choice March  
In Washington  
April 25, 2004**

**Support a Woman’s  
Right to Choose**

march to pool efforts and resources to lay the groundwork. Other progressive organizations such as AAUW have signed on as cosponsors, offering member participation and assistance in spreading the word and defraying costs. At its fall meeting, the AAUW of Virginia Board endorsed the march.

The march will begin at noon from the Lincoln Memorial. After marching on Washington, a rally will be held on the National Mall. More information on this event will be forthcoming. We are looking for a very large contingent of AAUW VA members.

### Contact Us

Public Policy is a vital component of AAUW of Virginia. Sherry Warren and Rosemary Plum, your public policy co-vice presidents, are always available to assist you with branch projects, issue forums, or any other public policy activities. Contact us at [varrtl\[at\]aol.com](mailto:varrtl[at]aol.com), or [rplum\[at\]cox.net](mailto:rplum[at]cox.net). To contact our lobbyist, Anne Sterling, e-mail her [nimbleleap\[at\]aol.com](mailto:nimbleleap[at]aol.com).

*Rosemary Plum and Sherry Warren,  
Co-Vice Presidents Public Policy*

### Virginia Women’s Leadership Project

## Women Can Make a Difference

AAUW of Virginia is a part of a collaborative effort with The Virginia Foundation for Women (VFW) and other women’s groups to form the Virginia Women’s Leadership Project (VWLP), designed to bring women’s organizations together to identify and recommend qualified women to serve in appointed positions at the state, regional, and local levels of government.

It continues to be a desire of AAUW of Virginia to get more women appointed to state boards and commissions. While state representation is not currently emphasized in our public priorities, we have frequently included it as a plank in our public policy priorities.

Members are encouraged to read the listing of positions available now by checking the commonwealth’s website: <http://www.commonwealth.state.va.us/gubern.html> and then clicking on “Appointments.” The application, and other details, may be found on the AAUW of Virginia website. Alternatively, you may submit your application to the VFW and ask for their recommendation.

I represent AAUW of Virginia as the liaison to the VWLP and would like to compile a record of members currently serving in these capacities and those who will be appointed. You may write to me at 3100 Shore Drive, PH 52, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, or call or write using the contacts listed below.

*Neola Waller, AAUW VA Liaison to the  
Virginia Women’s Leadership Project  
[wallerwn\[at\]wbeach.com](mailto:wallerwn[at]wbeach.com)*

## Give to EF Through United Way or CFC

The United Way Campaign and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will be underway this fall. Each provides an easy opportunity to give to the Educational Foundation through one’s paycheck. The number assigned is the same for both campaigns. Just fill in the number 1929 and be sure to mark the check box that allows the campaign to release your name back to the Foundation. Your gift will be credited to AAUW of Virginia and to your branch.

The Educational Foundation Development Office asks that you check by calling 202/728-3303 during the course of 2003 to be sure the proper credit is being received. If you work for the state or know someone who would like to contribute through the state campaign, please verify that the same number (1929) is used for the state campaign.

Thanks for giving this important number to those you encourage to support the AAUW Educational Foundation through the United Way Campaign or the Combined Federal Campaign.

# AAUW VA Adds a Focus on International Affairs

The international affairs chair is a new position established by AAUW of Virginia in July 2003. My role is to provide information and resources to issues around the world that interests AAUW. Our main thrust is educational equity especially for women and girls. That alone is a very important concern for all of us because in many countries in the developing world almost two-thirds of women are illiterate and more than half of the world's children not in school are girls. Lack of education is not only the result of lack of schools but a lack of several economic and cultural factors that prevent children, especially girls, from going to school or staying in school.

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which embodies many of our rights as human beings, has since 1948 guided countries related to the United Nations in its work around the world. Two recent conventions, the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1990) affirm many of these rights. By mid-2003, 173 countries (but not including the United States) have ratified CEDAW; all countries except Somalia and the United States of America have ratified the CRC. AAUW is one of the organizations that have been advocating for the ratification of CEDAW and CRC by the United States.

AAUW follows many issues taken by the United Nations and has had permanent observer status there since 1946. There is, therefore, an AAUW representative to the United Nations who attends selected U.N. and nongovernmental organization (NGOs) meetings and briefings. We follow various issues related to women and children: women's/girls' rights, poverty and development, education, lifelong learning and higher education, women in peacekeeping, women and globalization, women and the environment (including natural disasters), HIV/AIDS and health issues, trafficking /sexual exploitation, early marriage, and female genital mutilation. I will therefore be highlighting studies or research relating to these issues in my communications to the branches. We would like the branches to study some of these issues in their programs and plan projects relating to what may be possible in each branch's situation. The following reports from the United Nations may be of help.

1. State of the World's Children, 2001, 2002, 2003
2. Convention on the Rights of the Child – [www.unicef.org/voy/meeting/rig/convsum.html](http://www.unicef.org/voy/meeting/rig/convsum.html).
3. *Education for All: UNICEF's School Program Deliver Impressive Results* – [www.unicefusa.org\\_education/issue.html](http://www.unicefusa.org_education/issue.html)
4. *End Child Exploitation: Faces of Exploitation*, UNICEF, 2003 – [www.endchildexploitation.org.uk/petition/default.asp](http://www.endchildexploitation.org.uk/petition/default.asp)
5. Information on the Special Session on Children and the Children's Forum where 404 delegates (children under 18) worked on *A World Fit for Us* – [www.unicef.org/voy/misc/ssoc.html](http://www.unicef.org/voy/misc/ssoc.html)
6. *Children on the Edge: Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation and*

*Trafficking in East Asia and the Pacific*, UNICEF

7. *Gender and Education for All: The Leap to Equality*, UNESCO – [www.efareport.unesco.org](http://www.efareport.unesco.org) (This is the latest report of the monitoring body for gender differentials in education.)

8. *World Report on Violence and Health*, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, 2003

9. Elizabeth Rehn and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, *Women, War and Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peace-Building*, United Nations Development Fund for Women, 2002

Other Resources:

1. U.N. Wire is a free news service covering the United Nations and the world – [www.unwire.org/UNWire/2003](http://www.unwire.org/UNWire/2003)

2. *Rich World Poor Women*, VHS of Bill Moyer's PBS NOW program (available from me)

In addition, if you wish, I can speak to your branch about my health work in the Philippines and India or help locate other resource persons for branch programs.

In the future I will provide links to international organizations or funding agencies that may be of use to your programs or projects.

*Dr. Esther Galima Mabry, International Relations Chair*  
[egalm62\[at\]ntelos.net](mailto:egalm62[at]ntelos.net)

## Human Rights 101 Website Explores Major Issues

Human Rights 101, a new initiative from Thirteen/WNET New York, offers students insight into such complex topics such as tolerance, racism, women's rights, refugees, and religious freedom, and helps show students how they can become effective catalysts for change. Online, the Human Rights 101 website ([www.thirteen.org/edonline/hr101/](http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/hr101/)) serves as a launching pad for project ideas and provides students and their advisors with tools to help them learn about human rights, focus their interests, and actively work for change. The site features a wealth of resources, ideas for projects that can make positive change, volunteer and internship opportunities, and an interactive profile feature that uses human rights stories to help students focus their interests and goals. Teachers anywhere will be able to use the Human Rights 101 Toolkit to guide the development of projects. The toolkit includes model projects, a list of PBS programs that address human rights issues, and complementary teaching resources. Human Rights 101 is an initiative of Thirteen's Educational Resources Center, a leading provider of innovative programming, online education, and professional development for educators. Major support for Human Rights 101 is provided by Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation and the Reuters Foundation.

(Thirteen/WNET New York Press Release)

# American Association of University Women of Virginia 2003/2004 Calendar

<b>Dec 2003/ Jan 2004</b>	12/1	Nominations Due to Chair of Nominating Committee	Branch Leaders/Members
	12/10	Info for AAUW VA Branch Recognition Program	Joyner
	12/15	EF Funds and Reports Due to BrownBranch (EF & LAF fiscal year is Jan 1, 2003, to Dec 31, 2003)	EF Chairs
	12/15	LAF Funds and Reports to Sledge	Branch LAF Chairs
	1/28	State Lobby Day, Richmond	Plum, Warren, AAUW VA Members
	1/31	Educator and Education Advocate of the Year Nominations to Burger	Branch Leaders
<b>February</b>	1)	<i>Vision</i> Articles to Bacher: <b>Board:</b> Joyner, Burch, Binns, Ward, Plum, Warren, Sledge, Burger, Nominating Chair, <b>Branches:</b> Bon Air Area, Hampton, Alexandria, Greater Manassas, Reston-Herndon Area, Charlottesville, Bedford, Roanoke Valley, <b>District:</b> Northwest	
	1	Dues/Membership Verification Forms Mailed to Branch Treasurers	Ondo
	1	Slate of Nominees to Branch Presidents	Nominating Committee Chair
	1	Convention Mailing (Brochures)	Binns, Ward
	5	Counterpart Mailing to President Merkel	VA Board
	15	Prop. Resolutions & Bylaws Amendments Due to Merrow	Branch Leaders/Members
	15	Call for Branch Reports for Convention Program Book	Merkel
	15	President's Mailing with Convention Information	Merkel
	21	Hampton Roads District Meeting	Hampton Roads District Members
	22	Dues/Membership Confirmation to Branch Presidents	Ondo
	22	Branch Voting Strength Mailing to Branch Presidents	Ondo
26	VA Bylaws Amendments Due to Merrow	Branch Leaders/Members	
<b>March</b>	1	Postmark Deadline for AAUW of VA Branch Recognition Applications to Joyner	Branch Presidents
	3	<i>Vision</i> Mailed	Bacher
	15	Board Reports for Convention Program Book Due to Merkel	VA Board
	15	Convention Program Book Reports to Merkel	Branch Presidents
	16	AAUW VA Convention Hotel Reservation deadline	Everyone
	21	Delegate List to Convention Credentials Chair	Branch Presidents
	24	Mail Proposed Bylaws Amendments and Resolutions to Branch Presidents	Merrow
	26	Convention Registration Deadline	AAUW of VA Members
	27	Central District Meeting	Central District Members
<b>April</b>	20	Postmark Deadline for 21 <sup>st</sup> Century State Recognition Program Application to Association	Branch Presidents
	25	Pro-choice March on Washington	Everyone!
	30	Spring Board Meeting in Dulles	AAUW of VA Board
	30-May 2	AAUW of VA Convention in Dulles	Everyone!
<b>May</b>	10	Counterpart Mailing to President Merkel	AAUW of VA Board
	15)	<i>Vision</i> Articles to Bacher: <b>Board:</b> Joyner, Burch, Ondo, Binns, Ward, <b>Branches:</b> Chesterfield, Newport News, Virginia Beach, Arlington, McLean Area, Springfield-Annandale, Harrisonburg, Blacksburg Area, Winchester, <b>Districts:</b> Central and Hampton	
	15	Mailing to VA Board re Summer Board Meeting	Merkel
	15	Mailing to Branch Presidents	Merkel
	20	Capitol Hill Lobby Day, Washington, DC	AAUW of VA Members
<b>June</b>	1	Branch Officers Roster Due to Association and State President	Branch Presidents
	11 – 13	SAR & Southeast Central Region Conference in Atlanta, GA	Everyone!
	16	<i>Vision</i> Mailed	Bacher
<b>August</b>	August 4–10	IFUW 28th Triennial Conference, Perth Australia	Everyone!

# AAUW of Virginia STATE LOBBY DAY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2004

Come and join fellow AAUW of Virginia members and actively participate in the legislative process. This is your opportunity to interact with your legislative representatives and let them know AAUW's positions on important legislation.

First time attendees will be paired with veteran lobbyists. Fact sheets and talking points on specific issues will be provided.

**WHERE:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
815 E. Grace Street, Richmond VA  
(804) 643-3589

**TIME:** 7:15 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast  
7:30 a.m. Welcome and legislative update  
8 a.m. League of Women Voters Roundtable  
(Remainder of Agenda still being prepared)

**COST:** \$8

**PARKING:** Limited parking is available under the church. Please be prepared to leave your keys and have correct change.

**Please complete the attached registration form and return it with your check for \$8 by January 15, 2004 to: Rosemary Plum, 4201 Wakefield Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**AAUW Member HELPLINE:**

800/821-4364  
202/785-7798 (Metropolitan Washington, DC)  
202/785-7777 (TDD number)

**e-mail:** [helpline\[at\]mail.aauw.org](mailto:helpline[at]mail.aauw.org)

**AAUW website:**

<http://www.aauw.org>

**AAUW Congressional Action Line:**

202/785-7786

**VA AAUW Website:**

<http://www.aauwofva.org>

**VA Legislators Action Line:**

800/889-0229

AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, life-long education, and positive societal change.

The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

All mailing labels are prepared at AAUW headquarters. Please send changes or corrections directly to:

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