

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

NEWPORT NEWS VA BRANCH

November/December, 2011

PERSPECTIVES

President's Message

I was pleased to see the great turnout for the district meeting on such a cold, wet and windy day! The speaker from the Mariner's Museum was very interesting and made me look forward even more to our November meeting there. I hope a good number of you will be there. We have another event this month—AAUW turns 130 years old on Nov. 28. There will be a joint birthday party with the Newport News and Hampton branches on Nov. 29th, a Tuesday evening dinner meeting. See the details elsewhere in this newsletter and plan to join us for birthday cake! Since our Dec. meeting is early in the month, this is a joint Nov/Dec issue of the newsletter so I will close by wishing you all a series of happy holidays, and I hope to see many of you in person to issue specific greetings later!

Dana

November Branch Meeting

Saturday, November 19, 2011

10:30 a.m.

Program: "Exploring the Monitor"

Location: Mariners Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News

Open meeting – invite a friend or prospective member.
The group will have lunch together at a local restaurant.

130th AAUW Anniversary Joint Celebration with the Hampton Branch

Tuesday, November 29, 2011 @6:30pm
The New Country Buffet international Restaurant
1062-A West Mercury Blvd
Hampton, VA 23666
(757) 825-8777

Program: "AAUW: Reflections over the Years"
Panelists: Dort Pride and Lona Ross from the Hampton Branch;
Nancy Jane Bains and LaRhue Mitchell from Newport News

The Hampton Branch is providing the cake. Come and enjoy the celebration!

Holiday Branch Social

Branch members will attend the Virginia Symphony Holiday Brass concert.
Ferguson Center's Music and Theatre Hall (the small theatre)

Friday, December 9, 2011

Meet in the lobby between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. for coffee and pastries.

The concert begins at 11:00 a.m. and will include a variety of music.

The group will go for lunch following the concert.

Invite prospective members!

Tickets: Each member will order her own ticket. Tickets for this single performance are \$20 and may be obtained by calling the VA Symphony at 757-892-6366. (The Coffee and Classics series of three concerts is priced at \$53, for those interested.)

January Branch meeting (book discussion)

The meeting will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. at the Warwick Restaurant, 12306 Warwick Blvd.

We will discuss the book The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride. The author tells two parallel stories – that of his Jewish-born mother and his own. This bi-racial family lived in Suffolk, Virginia.

The 10th anniversary edition was published in 2006 and should be easily found in libraries, used bookstores or may be purchased from Amazon.

Contributions to AAUW Funds

Contributions are being requested towards our branch goal of a named gift, requiring \$500 or more. We have not had a fund raising project for several years and instead have made individual contributions.

Contributions should reach our treasurer by December 10, in order for her to get them to the national office. You may personally give her a check at one of our three get-togethers before then or mail to: **Ethel Woolfolk, Treasurer**, 137 Rexford Drive, Newport News, VA 23608.

Please see pages 10 – 12 of our 2011-2012 yearbook for a listing of all funds and their tax-deductible status. Important instructions are:

Checks should be payable to **“AAUW Funds” for tax deductible contributions or to “AAUW Action Fund” for non-tax deductible contributions.**

Include the Newport News Branch number VA3016 on your check in order for our branch to receive credit towards the named gift.

If you choose the tax deductible **Newport News Research and Projects Fellowship Endowment**, write **Fund number 1468** on your check. Thanks!

Transitions Breakfast Report

Transitions Family Violence Services held its 2011 Breakfast of Champions October 6, 2011, at the Omni Hotel. Our AAUW branch donated enough money to Transitions to gain Supporter gift giving status. Nancy Fowler, Program Manager, Office of Family Violence -Virginia Department of Social Services, provided data relating to the increasing demands for shelter beds and the changing dynamics of those seeking shelter over the years. The demand far exceeds availability of housing resources. The economy and job loss have caused more diverse populations in terms of age and education to seek shelter.

One "graduate" of the Transitions Program told about her journey from despair and domestic violence to independent living, school and employment. Her story was so inspirational.

Opportunities to give additional funds towards helping survivors of domestic violence were presented. In addition to their Adopt a Family Program, a Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Basket drive is in place.

The Breakfast of Champions was a great place to learn more about the work Transitions does. I really enjoyed the hour.

Ethel Woolfolk

2012 AAUW State Conference Preparations

Notice the change that what we have previously referred to as "Convention" is now "Conference" because we will not be voting at the meeting. Since we are moving to One Member, One Vote we will discuss the ballot proposals at the conference and amend them as desired. Ballots will then be mailed or electronically processed according to each member's preference. The State Conference planners are asking for some assistance and there are a few ways our branch will be able to help out. First, they would like to know about any businesses or organizations that would like to sponsor parts of the event, from the receptions, to guest speakers, to the program. The costs range from \$100 - \$250, and our sponsors will receive special recognition and reach the attention of over a hundred well educated women attending. Second, if you have any suggestions for speaker gifts or goodie-bag items, they would be interested in hearing about those. Or if you'd like to volunteer to be in charge of filling goodie-bags, they'd like that better. Finally, they would like to have your quotes for some publicity. If you are able to share your thoughts and inspirations by completing either or both of the following statements —I attend AAUW conference because ...I, —What I value most about attending AAUW conference is ...I, you can email your response to Karen Tagg(ktagg@whro.net) and she will collect and pass them on.

Southeast District News

The SE District has set recurring meetings on the last Saturdays in October and February. The October 29, 2011, meeting was held at the Newport News Crab Shack restaurant, and 41 members attended. Ann Marie Millar of the Mariners Museum gave a presentation, and there were progress reports for the One Member, One Vote and the upcoming AAUW State Conference that will be in Newport News, April 20 – 22, 2012. Newport News Branch was well-represented with eight members present. The next SE District meeting will be Saturday, February 25, 2012. The exact location is yet to be determined, but will likely be in the Newport News area, a central city for our district which stretches from Virginia Beach to Richmond.

AAUW of Virginia's One Member One Vote Initiative

Jane Newell, Task Force Chair for the initiative, spoke at our SE District meeting on October 29. Attached is a copy of her talking points for the benefit of those who were not in attendance. Jane graciously provided them to be included in this newsletter.

AAUW and the Combined Federal Campaign Opportunity

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) season is underway and AAUW is a participating charity.

At this moment many CFC charity events are taking place around the country. Would you like to represent AAUW at one or more of them?

AAUW has developed a Program in a Box to raise funds for our CFC affiliation (#11319). It is posted on the AAUW website at http://www.aauw.org/member_center/programs/PIAB.cfm under branch community programs.

In a nutshell, below is information regarding how the program works, resources you will need to bring to the events, and how these events benefit your branch.

- Various government charity events will be taking place between now and December 15, 2011
- Agencies will provide participating organizations with a draped table and chair.
- You will receive an e-mail from me providing you with dates, times, and location of such events
- Please decide quickly if you are able to participate in an event since these events are time sensitive.
- If you are interested, you will receive a packet of brochures and other AAUW related information for you to take to the event to disseminate to participants that will include brochures and fliers. You should also take materials related to your branch.
- This is a great opportunity to inform participants about your branch and the work of AAUW. Your branch will receive soft credit for any CFC contributions received related to your branch participating at the event.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the AAUW/CFC program.

Kemmell Watson

Business Development Manager

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BRANCH LEADERS 2011-2012

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