



Kensington-Rockville Newsletter

American Association of University Women

Website: kensingtonrockville-md.aauw.net

Volume 17 No. 7

March 2019

Kensington-Rockville

April Branch Meeting

**Saturday April 13, 2019
AAUW Spring Convention
McHenry MD
8:30-4:00**

**It is the 70th birthday of the Garret County
AAUW Branch**

See Maryland for details

AAUW Legislative Update: Crossover Success!

One of the big downsides of a part-time legislature is the rush to pass legislation in a mere four months. To meet this truncated schedule, Maryland legislative rules require all bills to pass at least one of the Houses by a “crossover” date in order to have the best chance of passing this session. This year several AAUW legislative priority bills met this deadline (March 18) and are on to the opposite house for a vote.

By far the biggest AAUW success is the favorable vote of the Maryland Patients’ Bill of Rights (HB145/S301), which unanimously passed the House. This legislation would give hospital patients throughout the state a access to transparent, standardized, consistent set of core rights—no matter which hospital they are in, and train of all medical personnel in patient rights will raise awareness of patient rights within the hospital culture. Another great success was the advancement of legislation that would prohibit using prior salary history in employment decisions (S738/HB634). Anchoring starting wages to prior salary history leads to a lifelong pay gap. This practice causes real harm. It adds up. It takes a personal toll. This bias and discrimination is costing women and people of color (and their loved ones) the paychecks, pensions, and security that they need and deserve. Kate Campbell Stevenson, AAUW President and KR branch member, testified in Annapolis on both bills. Look for an action alert in the next few weeks urging all senators to support the bills as they move to the opposite legislative chamber.

It is disappointing that a few of our priority bills did not make the crossover date, including important legislation which would have allowed courts to extend child support orders for students over 18 years old. The legislature also failed to move the “Time to Care Act” that would have authorized the state to create a family and medical leave insurance program, similar to unemployment insurance or short-term disability insurance. Look to see these proposals again in 2020!

Here is a complete list of 2019 AAUW legislative priority bills that are advancing after the crossover date:

1. Protective Orders – Relief Eligibility – Rape and Sexual Offenses
Sponsors Delegate Dumais and Senator Zirkin

2. Labor and Employment - Wage History and Wage Range Sponsors
Delegate Karen Young and Senator Lee **see below**
3. Health - Prescription Drug Affordability Board Sponsors: Delegate Pena-Melnyk and Senator Klausmeier
4. Maryland Health Insurance Option Protect Maryland Health Care Act of 2019 Sponsor: Delegate Pena-Melnyk
5. Discrimination in Employment - Pregnancy and Childbirth Sponsors:
Delegate Valderrama and Senator Feldman
6. Pilot Program - Alleged Rape, Sexual Offense, or Child Sexual Abuse - HIV Postexposure Prophylaxis Sponsors: Delegate Reznik and Senator King
7. Motion to Vacate Judgment - Human Trafficking (True Freedom Act of 2019) Sponsor: Senator Lee

Erin Prangley

Legal Advocacy Update

The Supreme Court Finally Addresses the Rizo Case ... in Part.

Aileen Rizo's Fight for Fair Pay Continues.

On August 30, 2018, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools filed a petition for appeal with the Supreme Court of the United States to challenge the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which had found in favor of Aileen Rizo's Equal Pay Act case. The Ninth Circuit had held that using prior salary alone, as a "factor other than sex" or in combination with other factors, cannot justify a wage differential under the Equal Pay Act.

On February 25, 2019, the Supreme Court vacated and remanded the Ninth Circuit's decision, which means that they determined that the Ninth Circuit's decision was flawed. It was sent back

Hear Rizo in Her Own Words



to the appellate court for additional review. ***The Court arrived at this conclusion without reviewing the merits of the equal pay case, focusing solely on the second issue before the Court, which was whether a federal court can count the vote of a judge who dies before the decision is issued.*** This was relevant because the judge who authored the Ninth Circuit decision died on March 29, 2018, although he had voted and issued his opinion prior to his death.

AAUW has been fighting for Rizo and others by advocating for pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits as a means to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women. We will continue to support her case through our legal case support program. Read her full story [here](#).

Why Rizo Matters

Basing pay on salary history can perpetuate the pay gap because women are typically paid less than men. If an employer bases the salary of a new employee on past wages, any prior discrimination in those wages is carried forward. This domino effect perpetuates pay inequity and has an impact on a woman's economic security. Rizo's case sheds light on this important yet often unrecognized factor contributing to the pay gap.

It's Time to Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act!

Rizo's experience magnifies the need for strong state and federal legislation to eliminate the practice of using prior salary alone in setting current wages. Federal legislation, like the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#), currently pending in Congress, addresses the "factor other than sex" affirmative defense of employers by requiring them to articulate a necessary, job-related justification for pay differentials. The legislation also prohibits reliance on salary history during hiring. [This legislation](#) will help close the gender pay gap and promote economic security for women nationwide. [Stand with AAUW and take action for Equal Pay.](#)

Member News

To **Julie Snell's** friends and colleagues at AAUW:

This is Scott Snell, on behalf of Julie's three children. With a heavy heart, we are letting you know that she passed away this afternoon. Nancy and Mark were holding her hands in her final moments. I raced from work when Mark called me, but arrived several minutes after she passed.

I want to thank all of you for your friendship and support of my mother, some of you for many, many decades, and the good times you had together. She loved you and the Kensington Branch and the AAUW.

We'll let you know when the memorial service will occur. Probably in late April, to allow as much of the family to be here. Most likely the service will be at the Riderwood Chapel.

Best wishes,
Scott Snell

The National Capitol Radio & Television Museum, at its 23 March fundraising gala, honored KR member **Brian Belanger** with a Broadcast History Legend Award for his tireless efforts as a founder, curator, newsletter editor, and docent of the Bowie museum. He proudly noted at the event that the NCRTV museum has garnered a 5-star Trip Advisor rating, while the Smithsonian's Air and Space and Natural History museums got 4.5s!

We are happy to report that **Janet Crampton's** open-heart surgery for valve replacement and repair went well, though recovering full strength, energy, and "normal life" has been understandably, if frustratingly, "slow." She is back home in her apartment at Ingleside and much appreciates our good wishes and moral support, and Joyce Graf's ongoing helpfulness.

More good news: **Margaret Schweitzer**, also at Ingleside, is back among us, though still regaining strength, after another hospitalization and 40-day rehab, this caused by an unusual sodium deficiency.

Reports of the ghastly crash of the Boeing 737 on 12 March in Ethiopia, which killed all 157 souls on board, were difficult to process as a distant abstraction. The tragedy was incomprehensibly real to our new member and friend **Wangari Kamau**, whose brother George Kamau was on board. We hold you in our hearts, Wangari. Wangari may be reached at somaglobalc@gmail.com.

BECOME A TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST

Action Network is the cornerstone of AAUW's e-advocacy efforts. By signing up, you will join **AAUW Action Network** and receive urgent e-mail notices to contact your elected officials. With our online Two-Minute Activist tool, it takes just minutes to make your voice heard!

To sign up, go to www.aauw.org. Scroll down on right side of screen to "TAKE ACTION." Click on and then scroll down to "Become a Two-Minute Activist" and register.

Join the AAUW Archives Corps!

Does the Past stir your juices? Are you curious about what AAUW has done to keep women loyal and committed for 136 years, and counting? Have you ever wondered who all those thousands of women were, and would become, that we have supported with AAUW fellowships and grants since 1888? Do you enjoy piecing together long-forgotten stories from fragile, faded papers?

Join the AAUW Archives Corps to work with other local members, under staff direction, to rediscover, process, and preserve for future use the documentary record of AAUW's extraordinary history. Archives volunteers commit to one partial day per month, usually the first Monday or Tuesday. Intrigued? Query Dian Belanger, dobelanger@comcast.net.

Join the AAUW Lobby Corps!

Does the Future push your buttons, especially the future for women and girls? Do you care about Title IX, sexual harassment, pay equity, voting and human rights? Does today's political atmosphere keep you up at night? Would you like to rationally promote and influence nonpartisan progress at the highest level?

Join the AAUW Lobby Corps on Capitol Hill to inform and urge legislative action for a more just world. Volunteer lobbyists, trained and briefed by AAUW public policy staff, commit to Thursday mornings when Congress is in session. Impassioned? Query Erin Prangle, erin.prangle@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

May 11: K-R Branch's Annual Business Meeting. **Branch Installation** Pot-luck. Anita Rosen's home, Silver Spring, MD 12:30 – 3:00

Deadline for the May Newsletter is April 20, 2019

Interest Groups

The Afternoon Literature Group

Margaret Schweitzer margaretsfchweitzer@gmail.com

The Literature group will meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 at the home of Joyce Graf. The group will be discussing "*Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*" by Helen Simonson. The *Washington Post* describes the book as a romantic comedy that wraps "Old World sensibility around a story of multicultural conflict involving two widowed people who assume they're done with love." It's about intelligence, heart, dignity and backbone. "Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" has them all. Discussion leader will be Joyce Graf. Please RSVP by email to joyce@regraf.com.

If you would have a favorite and discussible book contact Margaret. The list will be compiled at the the June meeting.
margaretsfchweitzer@gmail.com)

Le Groupe Française

Ruth Spivack

We meet in the evening to read and discuss French literature and culture. For more information, please contact Ruth Spivack
AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

GREAT DECISIONS

Marianne Jacobs
AAUWKenRock@gmail.com

April 26 at the home of Margaret Schweitzer

Newsletter Editor

Margery Sullivan

Circulation

Ruth Spivack

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more *than 135 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of men and their families.*

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW Vision Statement: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

**AUW Kensington-Rockville Branch
6540 Wiscasset Rd
Bethesda, MD 20816-2113**