

**Kensington-Rockville Branch Meeting**

**No April Meeting**

**Annual Branch Meeting and Potluck**

 **May 16, 2020**

**Details will be coming next month**

**The March meeting was to have been the AAUW State Convention. At this time it has been rescheduled for the end of June. Will keep you posted. Assume the speakers will also be able to reschedule. Connie Morella, Kate Campbell Stevenson, and Kendra Davis from the Association.**

**Message from the President**:

BACKGROUND: For the past few weeks, I have been engaged with discussions with Pat Stocker, President of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase AAUW Branch on a potential merger with our branch. A preliminary meeting was held on March 3 and a conference call was held on March 23 with Pat and approximately 10 Board members. The conversation was positive and there was an immediate agreement that both branches had a solid, but declining membership base, excellent programs, similar goals, as well as the problem of filling leadership roles.

AAUW MERGER REQUIREMENTS: Pat Stocker spoke to AAUW National and the requirements are less structured than those in use during the 2002 merger of the Kensington and Rockville branches. One group – usually the smaller – officially dissolves and then joins the other group. By-laws need to be rewritten with the possibility of using the by-laws of the existing group with any desired amendments.

MATTERS DISCUSSED:

1. One favored plan would be a one-year unofficial partnership with joint leadership, programs, board meetings, interest groups and luncheons. If all goes well, the formal merger would occur in the second year with the merging of finances and the approval of new bylaws.
2. Meeting locations need to be discussed further. Currently B-CC meets at Fox Hill (Burdette Road and River Road) and K-R meets at Ingleside. It was mentioned that when customary meeting sites change, attendance often drops.
3. General meeting dates are in accordance. Both branches meet the second or third Saturday of the month.
4. It was acknowledged that the “culture” of each branch could be an issue.
5. The Gaithersburg branch was advised of the merger discussions, but at this time was not interested in merging, but wanted to be informed as to what was happening,
6. A new branch name would be needed. Dian pointed out that AAUW National favors geographic names. SUGGESTIONS WELCOME

Another conference call will be held on Monday, April 6 at 4 p.m. Let me know if you would like to be added to the call or you have any comments or thoughts on the merger.

Ruth Spivack

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##### **Message from the Kensington Rockville AAUW Nominating Committee:**

#####  **Nominating Committee Report**

##### The Kensington-Rockville Branch nominating committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers for 2020-2021:

President Ruth Spivack

Program Vice President Anita Rosen

Membership Vice Presidents Maritsa George

 Sylvia Crowder

Treasurer Jeri Rhodes

Secretary Pat Ameling

Election and installation of officers will take place at the 16 May Annual Meeting and Potluck, or however and as soon thereafter as the coronavirus emergency permits. Officer terms begin on 1 July 2020.

KR Nominating Committee:

Dian Belanger

Joyce Graf

Anita Rosen

**Maryland Woman of Distinction Award TBA**

Maryland Woman of Distinction Dr. Yvette Myrick of the AAUW Baltimore Branch will be the 2020 Maryland Woman of Distinction. She will be honored at the 2020 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) held at University of Maryland College Park. She has committed her life to the pursuit of knowledge, education and advanced learning and enthusiastically mentors others. Dr. Myrick co-created a blog “Thriving in Higher Education Careers” which she developed into a book, *Thriving in Higher Education Careers*, co-authored with Dr. Estelle Young. These are resources for people in higher education or anyone desiring personal growth in their career.

AAUW Maryland’s primary philanthropy supports the Women of Distinction Event. **Maryland Women of Distinction Fund** – (4355) the Maryland AAUW fund’s goal is $20,000 by April 1, 2020.

The silent auction at the MD Convention in March will benefit the Women of Distinction Ceremony at the 2020 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

**What’s happening at AAUW?**

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is proud to announce its gender policy agenda, which outlines our priority issues for the 2020 election season. As a non-partisan organization, AAUW does not endorse specific candidates, but throughout our 140-year history, we have been a staunch advocate for policies that improve the lives of girls, women and their families. Here’s what AAUW would like to see implemented to advance gender equality in education and the workplace.

### **Economic Security**

1. **Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work.**  **Federal: pass the**Paycheck Fairness Act, the Pay Equity for All Act and the Fair Pay Act. Implement regulations to help businesses identify and correct biased pay practices, such as collecting wage data aggregated by sex and race.

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2**. Implement Paid Leave and Paid Sick Days.** Unlike the majority of developed countries worldwide, the U.S. does not guarantee paid time off for illness, family care or parental leave. Offering such paid time off would improve worker performance, benefiting employees, employers and the economy. Elected officials must adopt policies to give workers paid time off for illness and care giving.

1. **Stop Harassment in the Workplace. Instituting robust protections against sexual, racial and other forms of harassment in employment will lead to great economic security for women. Policymakers should prioritize policies that put workers first and allow everyone to do their jobs without the threat of harassment or retaliation.**

4**. Raise the Minimum Wage and Eliminate the Tipped Minimum Wage.** Women comprise a majority of the low-wage workforce, and Black women and Latinas are significantly over-represented in the low-wage workforce. Elected officials need to raise the minimum wage to an adequate level to keep millions of families from living in poverty.

5. **Close the Retirement Gap.**Because of such factors as the gender pay gap and time away from work for care giving responsibilities, women lose out on hundreds of thousands of dollars in earnings, making it difficult for them to accumulate savings. Lawmakers need to address the retirement wage gap by protecting Social Security and strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements.

6. **Protect Pregnant Workers.** Pregnant workers are sometimes pushed out of their jobs unnecessarily, but simple reasonable accommodations could help protect their health and ensure that they could continue working to support their families. Lawmakers should support pregnant workers by ensuring that they do not have to choose between their own health or the job and income they need.

### **Education**

1**. Defend and Strengthen Title IX. Since the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, schools have made significant strides in providing equal access to education. But barriers still exist, particularly for women and underrepresented populations. Elected officials must bolster the protections afforded by Title IX and faithfully implement and enforce this vital law.**

**2. Reduce Student Debt.**Women hold two-thirds of the nation’s $1.46 trillion educational debt. Policymakers should protect grant programs, champion tuition- and debt-free options and expand loan forgiveness programs.

3**. Expand Opportunities for Women and Girls in STEM. Careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are rapidly growing, but bias and discrimination inhibit women and girls from pursuing these fields. Lawmakers should help battle implicit and explicit bias by promoting programs that increase women’s participation and advancement in STEM education and careers.**

### **Foundational Rights**

1**. Expand and Protect the Right to Vote.** Voting discrimination is a threat to the very foundation of our democracy. Ensuring the right to vote is a prerequisite to establishing all the other policies AAUW advocates. Elected officials must protect and expand voting rights.

2.**Ensure Access to High-Quality Healthcare.** **It is critical to women’s economic security to have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare, including reproductive health care and family planning, and to have the control over such decisions. Policymakers must ensure all people have equal access to such care.**

3.**Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.**The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) would guarantee constitutional equality between men and women — a concept the majority of Americans agree is necessary and that most people believe is already codified. Lawmakers should ratify the ERA to ensure that advances we have made in women’s equality are not changed or revoked.

**By:** [Kate Nielson](https://www.aauw.org/author/katenielson/)   |   **Issue:** [Advocacy](https://www.aauw.org/issues/advocacy/), [Economic Security](https://www.aauw.org/issues/economic-justice/), [Education & Training](https://www.aauw.org/issues/education/)   |   **Tags:** [Economic Security](https://www.aauw.org/tag/economic-security/), [Education](https://www.aauw.org/tag/education/)   |   **January 21, 2020**

**News from Annapolis: Legislative Session**

**Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women**

MLAW Supporters:

While the 2020 Maryland General Assembly session ended early this year because of the coronavirus, **6** of the 9 bills on MLAW's Legislative Agenda were **PASSED**. Your support and advocacy contributed to this extraordinary achievement. We will send out a Final Report with more detail after the Governor takes action on these bills, but we wanted you to join us in celebrating this success

**PASSED**

[HB 4/SB 208](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hwjKvCqABJjn8zqFIB5OCf8SKHymm3aPS7f9c5_j1DKYkp1Fm60y9f1ydQSFCbnEjNFRvTiV3iP39Qd-yGdcxV-sGRT9IMEBEs-dRQtznCdZ1OP3rvzrZ8Qr8TBn9s0GNFYa_briOsmXd7pVacFQj-xPLkKkh_3oWrsDOH9CPrBnnOnUWlZisSCMSFicdTM6NVnmOM0rrus51BJCC2JxF57ScG-0ayBsQJmKwzScx4Q=&c=iE5MqEWAelo2fHwMBjpTCaWCEppyv7Fi8MUvtjSzRISsPRScKMW8FA==&ch=YaRxB3QQ0mpH5gKSXCIuJPIIGn87XMHCVHWnthZrCSJPaJEdqryVpw==) ▪ Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns - Sales, Rentals, and Transfers

[HB 123/SB 217](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hwjKvCqABJjn8zqFIB5OCf8SKHymm3aPS7f9c5_j1DKYkp1Fm60y9aTe0gT3b1DxHXMQKlxH0Y0vNO6w9qN0IxBzsMUQjhir_OabZd0yj8JnWy7xfJYHsPPP0kpQM2vJh31YmXQq1nAG9bIpxAvJtKqv4U1OE7Nj-N1pKvscuVSdmxQRSzO3r2-uJRt1PpAOd8wnGubKGp9tnAsK9Pw3rEMGeAHkQHHjIAsqKYSKizM=&c=iE5MqEWAelo2fHwMBjpTCaWCEppyv7Fi8MUvtjSzRISsPRScKMW8FA==&ch=YaRxB3QQ0mpH5gKSXCIuJPIIGn87XMHCVHWnthZrCSJPaJEdqryVpw==) ▪ Labor and Employment - Wage History and Wage Range

[HB 233/SB 21](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hwjKvCqABJjn8zqFIB5OCf8SKHymm3aPS7f9c5_j1DKYkp1Fm60y9XkQ8s-AC0-JKxOpL7OfyB3rOXYijqLx4dgsG_yXyO0xb5tKqDekSfOpOeUl5NO7cMH_fSoLVDQjMIbklOgWTZ_7L_wah4NWspX3DUReCjBd6KubmZCG3-xduvzvbmR8TBiPWGyrusQ3vH0Lg4PZzy0fMxhJEdFPRMOkPJykzKhJHUTTBr-Ynlk=&c=iE5MqEWAelo2fHwMBjpTCaWCEppyv7Fi8MUvtjSzRISsPRScKMW8FA==&ch=YaRxB3QQ0mpH5gKSXCIuJPIIGn87XMHCVHWnthZrCSJPaJEdqryVpw==)2 ▪ Criminal Law - Assault in the First Degree - Strangulation

[HB 242/SB 206](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hwjKvCqABJjn8zqFIB5OCf8SKHymm3aPS7f9c5_j1DKYkp1Fm60y9XkQ8s-AC0-JzG1VQE62gWx09jqEsM-Xcewnsfr4w9mByfjbLo-_YvHN5URwJiP0nzAsErAeXHL92G1pS1iEv4kzr0Jk_n6cddFPBJP3Ri2N6d5F0qNEjFSOUQwiA4tnbWvwd1hlNc5eHysgmhfixiqaEwRtKEcU_mnvhlq0dV6l0ac-ubi5ipg=&c=iE5MqEWAelo2fHwMBjpTCaWCEppyv7Fi8MUvtjSzRISsPRScKMW8FA==&ch=YaRxB3QQ0mpH5gKSXCIuJPIIGn87XMHCVHWnthZrCSJPaJEdqryVpw==) ▪ Criminal Procedure - Motion to Vacate Judgment - Human Trafficking (True Freedom Act of 2020)

[HB 246/SB 231](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hwjKvCqABJjn8zqFIB5OCf8SKHymm3aPS7f9c5_j1DKYkp1Fm60y9XkQ8s-AC0-Jfsn-He_xbSC_R8K1tPMzE7QifvQh2t6syRmFnkb394TLtrE3mjAUhHnQETN9REhLTfwntuI0Ctx2MgqZ_U4cGwgCn2sfhWXZkJyXbDmwHEQk0Tq46FI_Jb0yF7TwaqEHnnaqZ-NQHNStS0Y-S1uvaJj6xswPOOl3PeyoT4tYZ44=&c=iE5MqEWAelo2fHwMBjpTCaWCEppyv7Fi8MUvtjSzRISsPRScKMW8FA==&ch=YaRxB3QQ0mpH5gKSXCIuJPIIGn87XMHCVHWnthZrCSJPaJEdqryVpw==) ▪ Sexual Solicitation of a Minor - Solicitation Through Parent, Guardian, or Custodian - Prohibition and Penalties

[HB 248/SB 210](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hwjKvCqABJjn8zqFIB5OCf8SKHymm3aPS7f9c5_j1DKYkp1Fm60y9XkQ8s-AC0-JfDI9wlYG0945kCfpgvOB_PLFKZr6WwCnOYv3oPwug_67sU8Y3NOixTegr2NL8J1s_9Fjn01OWOS8Vuu_kRfEBkCtGvIqYMh1pOtcIK1U7PMR7zSE1GmaX5PDVXtGqmglvhKMALmN5XyM7hverdwG9_Eo4IZ83Oyh-k3jbsml1nE=&c=iE5MqEWAelo2fHwMBjpTCaWCEppyv7Fi8MUvtjSzRISsPRScKMW8FA==&ch=YaRxB3QQ0mpH5gKSXCIuJPIIGn87XMHCVHWnthZrCSJPaJEdqryVpw==) ▪ Protective Orders - Relief Eligibility - Rape and Sexual Offenses

**NOT PASSED**

[HB 590/SB 230](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hwjKvCqABJjn8zqFIB5OCf8SKHymm3aPS7f9c5_j1DKYkp1Fm60y9WHk0LDcQ9GJyhvpDh6dlvSee5PwhSoHD1qDc4oPNfRi7e5Gnct7N_usR_GY6Qv0b31egTx2ZW7UhXUIctiNq02E0X_u9rJWI41ElNLUg2D6JI6EA1AXtf4GRpadbe_O8vzZ9tpk3U6o3L2e0s0KGIjgyVAqEptgZuZVrT6TLbI3BhPYK03ls_c=&c=iE5MqEWAelo2fHwMBjpTCaWCEppyv7Fi8MUvtjSzRISsPRScKMW8FA==&ch=YaRxB3QQ0mpH5gKSXCIuJPIIGn87XMHCVHWnthZrCSJPaJEdqryVpw==) ▪ Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal Spousal Defense

[HB 839/SB 539](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hwjKvCqABJjn8zqFIB5OCf8SKHymm3aPS7f9c5_j1DKYkp1Fm60y9ad_99T8yjgT6hNFhcNdfCgJXcPLGuqIgps5c_m3PU1eTVDiwut2dTpvQ9IhJ_oLVmiH_MfsBG82ps_PoluGCqsLj0s2QlIEhw2U2pRgLhgllj-nwVG8IFGXk_rFWMyLngbpUX0jEzPY9IngQhZ4IUsXAmx8l1rKmVj-NG0DlmfwpWyYQ-VHAOg=&c=iE5MqEWAelo2fHwMBjpTCaWCEppyv7Fi8MUvtjSzRISsPRScKMW8FA==&ch=YaRxB3QQ0mpH5gKSXCIuJPIIGn87XMHCVHWnthZrCSJPaJEdqryVpw==)▪ Time to Care - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program

[HB 608/SB 682](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hwjKvCqABJjn8zqFIB5OCf8SKHymm3aPS7f9c5_j1DKYkp1Fm60y9WHk0LDcQ9GJDk78YzF9OGEWmiynudE2Xc6UV25S5Ipq6xMxHvbovsrDsFtmP0rQ5HNDjacgEBb-MkMspVvl94eX4DoIk4NnB4moy9O44oIq3js70kMSkCJetq1y46C2nW3_QYFJL9sMhUYSwCPT9aUbatTvnRd25NVYc8WLH3EEAvNoxivbrnI=&c=iE5MqEWAelo2fHwMBjpTCaWCEppyv7Fi8MUvtjSzRISsPRScKMW8FA==&ch=YaRxB3QQ0mpH5gKSXCIuJPIIGn87XMHCVHWnthZrCSJPaJEdqryVpw==)▪ Correctional Services - Prerelease Unit for Women - Requirement to Operate

Because of the Governor's executive order, we will not be holding a Legislative Wrap-Up event this year. We hope all of you will stay safe and healthy.



Michaele Cohen

President, MLAW Board of Directors

**Interest Groups**

**The Afternoon Literature**

**Group**

Margaret Schweitzer margaretfschweitzer@gmail.com

TBA

***GREAT DECISIONS***

Marianne Jacobs

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TBA

**Le Groupe Français**

Ruth Spivack

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TBA

**Deadline for the May Newsletter is April 20**

**Newsletter Editor Circulation Editor**

Margery Sullivan Ruth Spivack

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

***The Afternoon Literature Group***

Judy Burr judyb429@verizon.net

October 17, 2017, the group will be discussing My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante

**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.***

**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 women and their families.**

**In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks and inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.**

**AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch**

**6540 Wiscasset Rd**

**Bethesda, MD 20816-2113**