



Hampton Branch



April 27, 2024

The Hampton Branch is making great strides in meeting its objective for this program year. The first objective - to become more active in public policy issues before the Virginia legislature - is actively being pursued. Daisy Wilder, the policy chair, along with the president and program vice president have participated in public policy zooms through this quarter and actively tracked bills before the general assembly throughout the legislative period. This was taken to a higher level as the public policy chair and the president attended the AAUW Legislative Reception in Richmond on January 30, 2024. The female state legislators from Hampton did not attend the reception because of scheduling conflicts.



Daisy Wilder, Branch Public Policy Chair, at the Legislative Reception with Denise Murden, Virginia AAUW Co-Public Policy Chair (right)



Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden Virginia AAUW Co-Public Policy Chairs



Virginia State President, Lane Stone, at Reception

The next day, which was Lobby Day, both of our branch remembers visited the offices of Senator Mamie Locke and Delegate Jeion Ward. We were not able to speak with Sen. Locke but her aide visited with us. More success was had when we visited the offices of Del. Ward. We visited with her and her aide. Before ending our meeting, she invited us to take a picture with her. Much to our surprise, she said the it would be in her newsletter the following week. It was included under Highlights from the Week.



Carolyn Stewart and Daisy Wilder with Del. Jeion Ward

After the office visits, the State AAUW Delegations, which included us, visited the General Assembly where we, the delegation, were recognized by our State Senator, Mamie Locke. The day was full of friendly faces and new experiences, and was time well spend. We look forward to going next year!



Virginia AAUW State Delegation for Lobby Day



Carolyn Stewart, Branch President, at Lobby Day



Daisy Wilder, Branch Public Policy Chair, at Lobby Day

The public policy team continued advocating for change to Title IX, Healthy Families Act, Equal Rights Amendment, and Equal Pay through letter writing to Senator Kaine and Congressman Scott. Responses/thank you letters were received, thanking them for their comments and interest in government.

The Southeast District Meeting was held at the WHRO radio station in Norfolk, Virginia on February 24, 2024. The presenters for the meeting were Sylvia Weinstein Craft and Lisa D. Spiller. They discussed their book, *Platinum Rules for Enjoying Life*. Following the speakers' presentation, branches gave an update on what they have done this program year and what is to come. The Hampton Branch was proud to showcase the fact that they received two mini grants from the state and would be sponsoring a DEIB zoom workshop for girls at Phoebus High School in March, and there would be a STEM workshop for girls in April. The branch also received a "shot out" for celebrating 75 years as a branch.

The president, program vice president, and membership vice president attended the meeting.

**SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
SPRING
MEETING**

2.24.2024

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
WHRO, 5200 Hampton Blvd. Norfolk, VA 23508

Our Speakers:
*Sylvia Weinstein Craft
& Lisa D. Spiller*

*Platinum Rules
for
Enjoying Life*
Sylvia Weinstein Craft
& Lisa D. Spiller

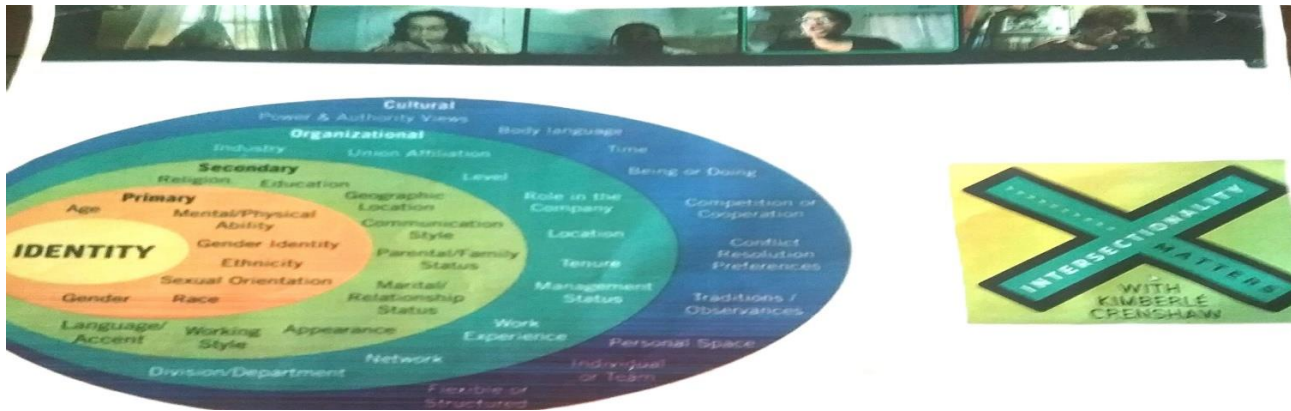
Platinum Rules for Enjoying Life will help you to create a life of significance... even in this modern, demanding, fast-paced world...by providing inspiring and timeless guidance on how to fully appreciate life and make the most of each moment.

This meeting is co-sponsored by the
Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast
Girl Scout Cookies Desserts for refreshments

March is Women's History month, and the women of the Hampton Branch were very busy. It began with Daisy Wilder, the branch Public Policy Chair. She attended the Community Forum on Aging, sponsored by the Peninsula Agency on Aging, on March 6, 2024. The theme was "The Power of Aging." The keynote speaker was A'Lelia Bundles. Six educational and hands-on workshops were provided as well as lunch, health screenings, and an exhibit hall where participants were treated to free items. The workshop provided ideas to present to the branch for our next community service project.

March 15, 2024, the branch held a zoom presentation with Dr. Veleka Gatling, Assistant Vice President for Diversity and Inclusive Excellence at Old Dominion University. The target population was a diverse group of ten girls from Phoebus High School and their student advisor, Mrs. Fredricka Conyers-Brinkley. Other participants included members of the Hampton Branch, invited guests, which included members of The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) and two potential branch members. Dr. Gatling began by advising the girls that diversity and inclusion start as soon as they begin interacting with others and that equity and the desire to belong show up in virtually every aspect of their lives. Dr. Gatling used an oval chart on primary, secondary, organization and cultural behaviors we each experience in life. She also explained intersectionality, a phrase coined by Kimberle Crenshaw, which in Crenshaw's own words is "a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it

interlocks and intersects. It's not simply that there's a race problem here, a gender problem here, and a class or LGBTQ problem there."



Dr. Veleka Gatling (2nd from right) speaking via Zoom with students at Phoebus High School. Pictured left to right is Mrs. Frederika Conyers-Binkley (student advisor), Carolyn Stewart, branch president, student, and D. Margaret Smith-Bristow (branch DEIB Chair)

Everything Dr. Gatling shared was to remind the girls and others on the zoom of the need to be prepared to interact in society at a level that allows them to handle inequities they may face as they strive to surround themselves with an inclusive community. In closing, Dr. Gatling advised everyone to be “*curious*” instead of *judgmental* as they go through life, seeking to find answers to the “why” behavior before judging others.



Dr. Veleka Gatling

Throughout the month branch members participated in zoom meetings and webinars, to include Membership: Scanning Our Future and Busting Myths & Enhancing Support.



- April 20, 2024 Branch Meeting, Charles Taylor Library, Hampton, VA, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- April 23, 2024 Community service roject for Crittenden Middle School, Newport New, VA.
- April 27, 2024 STEM Workshop, Gethsemane Baptist Church, Newport News, VA,
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- May 18, 2024 Branch Meeting, Charles Taylor Library, Hampton, VA, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- June 15, 2024 Branch Meeting, Charles Taylor Library, Hampton, VA, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Carolyn Stewart
Co-Editor

Anjanette Sheppard Taylor
Co-Editor

MISSION: *To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

DIVERSITY STATEMENT: *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.*
