



Hampton Branch



January 10, 2025

As the leaves turned colors, the temperature dropped, and the days became shorter, it was obvious that summer was behind us, fall was here, and so was the 2024 election for the President of the United States.

The branch's efforts to assist in encouraging people to vote began in July. Three Hundred post cards were received from the AAUW-VA Reclaim Our Vote Coordinator, postage stamps were purchased, and a list of registered voters was obtained. The task was completed in September when members addressed and mailed the cards. After the election in November, branch members watched the national webinar, "Securing the Future: A Post Election Conversation on Women's Economic Security."

Efforts to assist in ensuring that everyone had an opportunity to vote continued in September. The Virginia Beach branch invited Hampton to join with them in a voter registration drive at the Virginia Beach location of Bryant and Stratton College. Two days later, the Hampton Branch held its own voter registration drive at the Hampton campus. Young adults from Gloucester, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, and Poquoson became registered voters that day.



Daisy Wilder, Public Policy Chair in front of voter registration table at Bryant & Stratton College

With all the rhetoric before the various courts, the Dobbs decision, and the issues presidential candidates were running on, the branch decided to turn its attention to another women's issue -domestic violence. So, in October, which is domestic violence awareness month, the branch partnered with the Newport News Police Department's Community Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Patricia Project at Gethsemane Baptist Church to hold a workshop on the subject. The workshop was entitled "Enough Is Enough." Greta Ragin, the program coordinator, gave an overview of the Patricia Project and the workshop was conducted by Dr. Maria Saunders-Jarvis, a chaplain with the NNPD. At the end of the workshop, Transitions Family Violence Center (Hampton) was recognized and received a donation from the branch.



Dr. Maria Saunders-Jarvis leading the "Enough Is Enough" Workshop



Table with domestic violence literature

The domestic violence workshop touched on the idea that women should be empowered and have resources to sustain themselves. With that in mind, members watched the webinar in November entitled Securing the Future: A Post Election Conversation on Women's Economic Security.

December brought an opportunity to relax. Branch members and invited guests gathered at Angelo's Steak House for fun and fellowship. The president read the branch history, giving recognition to deceased members who held offices as high as the AAUW Atlantic Region Director (Roz Exum) and AAUW Virginia State President (Roz Exum and Susan Hoover). Entertainment was

the reading of “Ain’t I a woman.” Branch members donated items to be raffled, and the proceeds went towards the scholarship fund.



Courtney Berry reading “Ain’t I a Woman”

Well, children, where there is so much racket there must be something out of kilter. I think that 'twixt the negroes of the South and the women at the North, all talking about rights, the white men will be in a fix pretty soon. But what's all this here talking about?

That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ar'n't I a woman?

Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ar'n't I a woman?

I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman?

I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?

Then they talk about this thing in the head; what's this they call it? [member of audience whispers, "intellect"] That's it, honey. What's that got to do with women's rights or negroes' rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yours holds a quart, wouldn't you be mean not to let me have my little half measure full?

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back and get it right side up again!

And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.

Obliged to you for hearing me, and now old Sojourner ain't got nothing more to say.



- January 14, 2025 Evening with Alexander Blocker, Funds Our Schools Program
- January 15, 2025 Lobby Day, State Capital, Richmond, Virginia
- February 2025 Microaggression Training
- March 28-29, 2025 State Conference, Alexandria, Virginia
- April 2025 STEM Workshop

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.*
