



THE SCHOONER - May 2025

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Letter from the Co-Presidents

Community – it’s the neighbor who waves a friendly greeting as you go to work in the morning, the little boy who you help to stand up after he falls off his bicycle, or the woman down the street who listens attentively as you talk at the Town Council meeting. In AAUW, community is the company of ladies – and men – who share similar values and aspirations, who help each other grow, and enthusiastically support each woman on her journey towards self-fulfillment. There is considerable strength in this community. It has helped women of many nationalities and cultures achieve their aspirations through the giving of grants and scholarships, provided legal support in hard times, and opened doors to a multitude of opportunities. Wherever they go, AAUW members find other women with whom they can be instant friends, find role models to emulate, and can join in the celebration of common values.

We are facing difficult times right now in which our core values are challenged. Women leaders are forced out of their jobs or denied promotions for being “too DEI.” Universities and medical institutions are being denied

SAVE THESE DATES

5/1, 7:00 p	Board Meeting
5/17, 2:00 p	Program Meeting
6/7, 3 p	Francophile Group
7/17, TBD	Gourmet Group
5/27, 7:00 p	Mystery Book Group
6/18, 7 p	The Play That Goes Wrong

grants to do research on issues of importance to women, such as women's health. Women are forced to choose between their jobs or caring for their children as return-to-the-office mandates sweep through government and industry.

Preventing these forces from pushing women back - forcing them to lose so much of the ground they have gained - is critical right now. We need to come together as a community and strengthen our support for each other. We must not forget our core values or lose our essential identity. We must be as we always have been – patient and encouraging with each other, loyal to the organization, and continuing to work towards the goals we have pursued for almost 150 years. Our “mothers” expect no less.

Sylvia Linke & Diane Schrier, Co-Presidents

PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Public Policy held a meeting on April 24th with Ben Jones, Aide to Senator Ebbin. The General Assembly may have a special session in September to discuss the changes in State Funding due to the firings of Federal employees and the cutback of research funds. Over the 1990 bills the Governor received, he signed 559, vetoed 157 and returned 159 with changes. Funding, that the General Assembly had added, was reduced for K-12 support staff. Support staff is not funded under the K-12 funding formula that was created in 2009 during the recession. Therefore, school district funding has been drastically short as the JLARC (Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission) report emphasized. The Commission to correct the school funding formula was vetoed. The Governor wished to fund private school vouchers by \$25 million and lab schools for \$10 million. He also wanted put away \$300 million to add to the rainy-day fund. These changes were not approved by the General Assembly and the bills were sent back. Bills to aid students with disabilities passed, including giving teachers professional development credits for learning how to handle students with autism. Most states pay 37% of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). The Federal Government was originally supposed to pay 40%, but the reality is the government pays far less and Virginia only pays 13%.

Many early childhood bills failed, but \$15 million was added to increase early learning spaces, lowering family copayments for subsidies and enrolling school-aged children in a Child Care subsidy program. The bill to feed students breakfast failed, as did the removal of standards for Home Schooling and Restorative Schools justice failed. Restorative Justice is meant to find better ways of dealing with students' behaviors, instead of sending them to jail.

On April 24th a federal judge paused the Trump administration's actions to withhold funding from school systems that have diversity, equity and inclusion programs, saying the actions “raise the specter of a public witch hunt that will sow fear and doubt among teachers.” The injunction only applies to schools receiving Federal Funding. Head Start has been defunded under the President's 2025-2026 budget. The Department of Education has severally cut special education. There are nearly 8 million students 3-21 who qualify for services, with another 462,847 infants

and toddlers receiving IDEA support. 95% of these students attend public schools. A recently introduced bicameral legislation has asked to increase funding by 40% or to \$69.6 Billion by 2035. Title, I funding allocation is based on the census poverty estimates. In 2023, that amounted to \$18 billion. The program is untouched but the Census bureau has had firings of 5 Division Heads, large staff removals and a hiring freeze.

Student loan applications were temporarily suspended but now are now in the process of being reopened. Starting May 5, all back payments need to start being repaid, with money being taken from wages, social security benefits and tax refunds.

Several colleges and universities have lost funds due to DEI actions. This has dramatically affected research. The American Association of Colleges and Universities presented a letter, signed by over 150 Presidents, decrying excessive government interference in education. The Big Ten (18 schools), led by Indiana University at Bloomington, have created a mutual defense fund. Harvard has filed a lawsuit against the Federal Government for the loss of its funding for research. The government wanted control of Harvard's hirings, firings and what students were admitted.

The SERVIS network that validated international students being in the U.S. has been reinstalled due to a judge's order on April 25th. However, students are still being removed, and then self-deporting or arrested and deported, without due process. At this point there are between 1600 – 5000 students kicked off the network. Many are still in custody. Higher education has brought a lot of funds into the United States. This income will drop significantly.

The SAVE Act passed the House and it is essential that it not pass the Senate. It will disenfranchise approximately 85% of married women, who have changed their name. They will need a certified copy of their birth certificate, marriage certificate with name change (even with a divorce) or an active passport. The Social Security network is being updated by DOGE. Please download your work history to protect yourself.

Title IX rules have been returned to the 2020 DeVos rules. Victims of sexual harassment must now prove that it was severe and pervasive, as opposed to "or" under the Biden rules. All mention of DEI is removed, K-12 and all public schools are losing funding or being sued for transgender bathrooms or locker rooms. The name, image and likeness (NIL) payments made to colleges for their athletes must no longer be proportionate between male and female athletes.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING STATEMENT

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. 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, or socioeconomic status.

PROGRAM NOTES

Please join your friends from AAUW Alexandria for a special program. Our guest speaker will be Dr. F. Jane Cotton, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the Department of the Air Force and a recipient of a PhD in Education from The George Washington University. She is a resident of the City of Alexandria. Her life has been very interesting. She met the challenges of leading in the military of the Truman years and following.

We will also have our annual business meeting and will elect new officers and adopt a provisional budget. There will be a brief recognition of the branch's 80th birthday.

We will meet at Elaine's at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Elaine's is at 208 Queen St. in Old Town Alexandria. The owner has graciously offered to seat us on the 1st floor.

Specifics on food, the price, and payment terms will follow.

Submitted by: Sylvia Linke, Co-President

YOUR BOARD IN ACTION

The following is a summary of the Minutes of the March Board meeting approved during the April Board Meeting.

The meeting was held on March 6, 2025, and those in attendance included Diane Schrier, Sylvia Linke, Lane Stone, Anne Simpson, Gail Kalin, Deb Todd, Eugenia Burkes, and Susan Cash.

The Treasurer's Report, presented by Anne Simpson, showed a balance of \$22,089.47.

Diane Schrier discussed several issues of concern in her Public Policy report. Members of the Lobby Day team had lobbied in Congress on March 6th in opposition to the SAVE Act which will greatly impact who can be eligible to vote. For example, women who have changed their name when they married, will have to show legal proof since their name is no longer the name on their birth certificate. There was also discussion about the implications of the downsizing or complete elimination of the Department of Education.

Gail Kalin discussed changes to the possible program change on women in the theater and a trip to the George Mason Observatory.

Lane Stone gave an update on the plans for the State Conference to be held on March 29th. Everyone was thrilled to learn that the conference was sold out and there was a waiting list.

MEMBER PROFILE

This month the members who have agreed to being nominated to serve as co-presidents during the next term of office are being profiled. During the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 17th, the membership will vote on the slate of officers.

Anne Simpson



Anne is a California girl. Although she was born in Iowa, her parents were just there going to graduate school. Her dad was actually from British Guiana (now Guyana) and my mom was from Virginia. They moved to California when she was a year old and she stayed there, with a couple of exceptions, until she retired. She went all the way through high school in Southern California, then Northern California. She then spent a year in England with her family when her father was on sabbatical. She went to undergraduate school at U.C. Irvine, planning to be a chemist. Her husband, whom she married when she was a senior, was going to be a teacher, but once they graduated, they discovered that neither of them liked their professions, so they signed up for four more years of optometry school. Unfortunately, they had no money, so they also signed up for Army scholarships. Upon graduation, our first child in tow, they spent three years at Fort Dix in New Jersey, Anne's first exposure to the East Coast. Then they moved back home when they were out of the Army. Fortunately, they loved optometry. They had their own practice for thirty-four years and Anne also taught in the clinic of the optometry college in Southern California. They had their second child and Anne joined AAUW. At the time she was in an interest group called "Fun Under Forty".

Many years later, for completely unrelated reasons, their two children came to live in Alexandria. They decided to move here when they retired. Their son, Kevin, was in Pershing's Own, the Army band, and their daughter, Holly, was married to the owner of five karate studios in Alexandria. However, Holly and her husband, Chris developed wanderlust. They sold the studios and after traveling around the world for two and a half years with their three young sons, they decided to live in Ireland, which is where they are now. Fortunately, Kevin still is in the area, still is in the band, and they have been living here for ten years now. Anne's involvement in AAUW, going back to the beginning in California, consists of having been President, Vice President for Program, Treasurer, and just recently, Historian for the State of Virginia. She belongs to Lobby Corps and works in archiving in the national office. In addition to AAUW, her main interests are singing and travel. Anne and Richard are in the Alexandria Choral Society, and they are going on tour in June. She also packs groceries for two different food pantries.

Dr. Felicia Goss



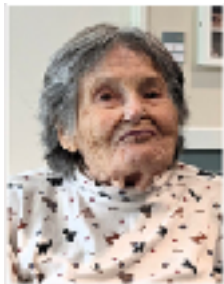
Dr. Felicia M. Goss is a seasoned educator, federal program analyst, and consultant with over 25 years of experience in education, grant management, federal contract facilitation and curriculum development. She currently serves as a Clinical Supervisor, where she brings her expertise in instruction, assessment, and equity-focused teaching to higher education.

Dr. Goss previously held leadership roles at the U.S. Department of Education, where she managed federal contracts and grants, guided proposal development, and advised on policy compliance and process improvements. Her background also includes impactful work in K-12 education, leading diversity and assessment initiatives and supporting teacher development.

She holds a Ph.D. in Psychology, a Master's in Conflict Management, and is certified in multiple states and in federal project/program management. Dr. Goss is an active member of several professional organizations including AAUW and APA. Her work is grounded in a strong commitment to equity, innovation, and student success.

In Memory of a Dedicated Member

MARY HARTZLER OBITUARY



Mary Peterson Hartzler died January 17, 2025. She was 93 years old. Born on May 10, 1931, in Hinsdale, Illinois, she was the only child of Albert James Peterson and Olga Kaney Peterson. Mary was predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Alfred James Hartzler. She is survived by her son, Peter, and his spouse.

A lifelong champion for equality, Mary dedicated herself to advancing civil rights and ensuring fair opportunities for women. Her passion fueled her involvement in numerous national and local organizations, as well as political movements aimed at securing justice and fairness. One of those organizations working for women's rights was AAUW where she was a long time member of the Alexandria Branch. She served many years as co-chair with Ruth Bennett on our local cable tv group "On the Go with AAUW."

Memory tributes may be shared with the family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.com.

Arrangements by the Williams-Onancock Funeral Home.

To [send flowers](#) to the family or [plant a tree](#) in memory of Mary Peterson Hartzler, please [visit our floral store](#).

Annual Fundraiser

A fun, entertaining play *The Play That Goes Wrong*, will highlight this year's fundraiser for the Alexandria AAUW branch. We hope to see you all there to enjoy, not only the play, but also our always popular reception in the Little Theatre of Alexandria's Green Room. There will be sweets, savories and beverages to get you ready for a great evening. Buy your tickets, bring a friend or give them as a gift. If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation. See the attached flyer for details.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

AAUW ALEXANDRIA BRANCH FUNDRAISER

At THE LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA



A play within a play, this classic murder mystery is full of mishaps, mayhem and madcap mania! Welcome to the opening night of *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, where things quickly go from bad to utterly disastrous: it's sure to bring the house down.

Estimated run time: 2 hours with an intermission. Age appropriateness: 8 and up.

When: Wednesday, June 18, 2025
Time: 7:00 pm – Reception; Alexandria Branch is responsible for sweets
8:00 pm – Performance
Where: Little Theatre of Alexandria (street parking)
600 Wolfe Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tickets: \$40 (\$31.68 is tax deductible)
Contact: Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net, or 703-270-5378
Make checks out to AAUW Alexandria.

Christ House Project - A History

Our Branch community project of providing a supper started in 1986 with the involvement of member Ellen Pickering, also a former president of the Branch and a tireless advocate for the city of Alexandria. Several women would cook a hot meal in Ellen's kitchen and take it to the soup kitchen. The idea of serving pizza was started under the leadership of former Branch member, Judy Titterton. The pizza is served with vegetables (a tossed salad when we were serving inside), fruit, dessert and bottled water that we purchase. Up until Covid, meals were served inside serving 60-70 people at 2 servings starting at 5 pm. The pizza is purchased with Branch fundraising and generous Branch members. The other food items are contributed by members and dropped off at the soup kitchen at 131 S. West Street in Old Town. In 2006, Margaret Zebrowski and Jan Jaynes became co-chairs of the evening meal. Jan was Branch president when Ellen helped start the project, and Margaret, also a former president, were both involved with serving and donating prior to becoming co-chairs.

We have learned how sad it is that groups of people have to depend on organizations for adequate food for themselves, and often their children, in such a rich country. We realize that regular people working together can help provide basic meals for those that need them. We appreciate our volunteers who value the opportunity to help people, living in our community, who have so much less and so much need.

Supporting Christ House, through providing a meal four to five fifth Wednesdays a year, has been one of our Branch's main charitable projects for the Alexandria community. It helps to connect us to the overall community of organizations that make Alexandria the good place to be, that it is. Over the years, many members have volunteered their time with Christ House suppers and the membership has always been so generous. The Branch has probably served 12,000 meals. We thank all who have helped and especially our consistent member servers/contributors Mary Ann Bier, Anne Simpson, Virginia Kress and Nancy Kula.

Please consider giving a little of your time or making a food donation when it's our turn to provide a meal. There's a need now, more than ever, as the number of guests at Christ House continues to increase.

Margaret Zebrowski and Jan Jaynes
Co-chairs

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Diversity Book Discussion Group

The Diversity Book Group had a lively discussion in April of Dreamers of the Day, a historical fiction work whose action takes place during 1921-29 in a small town in Ohio and in Cairo, Egypt, beginning at the time of the Spanish flu pandemic. With few exceptions, all participants enjoyed the book and were fascinated to learn some of the details of the “carving up” of the Middle East at that time.



For Monday, May 12, we will be talking about As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow, a novel for young adults but also well suited to older adults, by Zoulfah Katouh. It was written in 2022 and delves into the lives of several young people caught in the devastation and trauma of the Syrian civil war. We invite you to join us on Zoom from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Please email Bonnie Hershberg at hersh3b@gmail.com or phone or text at 703-282-5896.

Francophile Group

The Francophile Group will meet on Saturday, June 7 at 3 p.m. via Zoom. Our suggested book is Bruno's Challenge and Other Stories of the French Countryside by Martin Walker. Participants are welcome to talk about other books that interest them. We will have two short presentations. One will mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day (May 7, 1945). The other, a surprise presentation on a well-known Francophile, will be a prelude to Bastille Day.

In July we plan to have our annual Bastille Day dinner. It is tentatively scheduled for Bistro L'Hermitage in Woodbridge/Occoquan on the evening of Thursday, July 17. Time is TBD.

In September, we will mark the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the Revolutionary War and the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's farewell tour of America with a presentation focusing on Lafayette's life and France's role in the war. We will also discuss a book (any topic) to be chosen by our members.

Point of contact: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com, 703/587-4790.

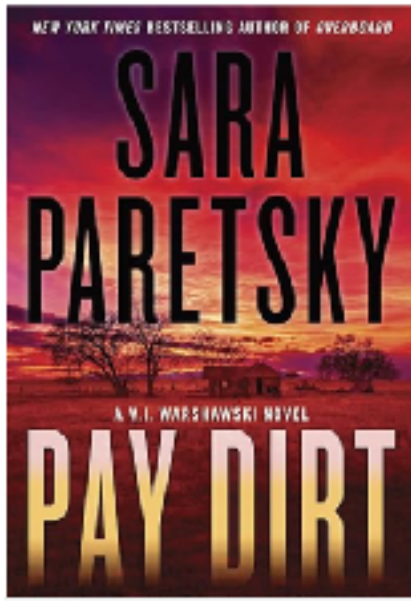


Gourmet Group

Our next event will be a joint event with the Francophile group: our annual dinner to mark Bastille Day. Tentative date and location is Thursday, July 17, at Bistro L'Hermitage in Woodbridge/Occoquan. Time is TBD. Point of contact: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com or 703/587-4790.



Mystery Book Discussion Group



Mystery lovers – our May mystery is Sara Paretsky's Pay Dirt. It has been a while since we have read a Sara Paretsky V.I. Warshawski novel. So we will see what is new with V.I. The meeting date is May 27th, time: 7 PM. We will meet via Zoom. If you have questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group or recommendations for mystery novels for the Group to read, please contact Susan Werner – susan.werner1@verizon.net. Happy Reading. Happy Spring.

Great Decisions



Many thanks to Larry Korb for leading our lively and insightful discussion on the future of NATO as our March topic. Our next Great Decisions session will be on May 8, 7 pm, via Zoom. Diane Schrier will be facilitating our discussion on "US-China Relations."

Washington's relations with Beijing have reached an ominous low ebb. Both American political parties have identified China as the country's preeminent geopolitical challenger and, in the eyes of many, a systemic threat. What is driving this deterioration of Sino-American relations, and what are America's strategic options in the face of Chinese power and ambition?

Zoom Link:

Time: May 8, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://vccs.zoom.us/j/83498539185?pwd=Jxu8yxOcpFhSfGdPQiO1xNteDajpGr.1>

Meeting ID: 834 9853 9185

Passcode: 888077

Below is our schedule for the rest of the year. Guests are always welcome. Please contact Lynn O'Connell at lynnoconnellva@gmail.com with any questions.

Thurs, May 8 - U.S.-China Relations (facilitated by Diane Schrier)

Thurs, June 12 - American Policy in the Middle East (facilitated by Hoard Soroos)

Thurs, Sept 11

Thurs, Oct 9

Thurs, Nov 13 - India: Between China, the West and the Global South (facilitated by Danielle Beach)

Thurs, Dec 11

Lynn

703/867-4942

"Life is about the adventures you take and the memories you make. So travel often and live life with open eyes and an open heart."



2025 Member Vote

Did you receive your ballot on April 14?

It's your AAUW, and your voice counts. It's time to vote on the AAUW Board of Directors and proposed changes to the national Bylaws and Public Policy Priorities.

The 2025 AAUW national member vote has begun! AAUW members will vote on amendments to the national Bylaws recommended by the member-led national Governance Committee and changes to the Public Policy Priorities recommended by the member-led national Public Policy Committee. Members will also vote on the candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors.

The election ends on **May 13, 2025 at 5:00 pm ET.**

For more information on this election, see Diane Schrier's email on 4/29/2025.



A link to the on-line ballot for the state election will be distributed to all members on May 1st – which is the start of on-line voting. You may vote until May 20th at 11:45 pm. Watch for an email with your specific voting link.

In addition to voting for new officers, the ballot will contain a Bylaws amendment. The Virginia Board of Directors is asking members to vote on whether to amend the state Bylaws to exempt any College/University Representative from the payment of state affiliate dues. We believe this will help branches recruit these individuals to become members.

VA AAUW in Action

AAUW opposes the dismantling of the Department of Education, in no uncertain terms and let Congressman Scott know. Please let your [senators and representative know how you feel](#).

The Honorable “Bobby” Scott
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Scott,

On behalf of the over 1000 members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Virginia, including your constituents in our Hampton and Newport News branches, I write to you today in your capacity as Ranking Member of the Education and Workforce Committee to ask you to oppose the recent actions of the administration to destroy the Department of Education.

This year, AAUW of Virginia is celebrating its 100th year of advocating for equitable access to public education. The recent actions of the Administration endanger this century of progress, and we fear will send us back to the days of separate but equal — which was anything but.

The President knows he cannot unilaterally dismantle the U.S. Department of Education through executive order; however, this reckless action is part of a deeply troubling agenda to dismantle public education through cuts and chaos. Since most of the DOE’s budget is spent through the

Office of Federal Student Aid, by slashing funding, stripping oversight, and creating disorder, this administration is deliberately undermining America's future leaders' ability to access and complete higher education. The consequences will be devastating for low-income students, first-generation college-goers, and communities historically marginalized in education.

AAUW calls on Congress to reject this cynical attack on the U.S. Department of Education and to uphold its essential mission: ensuring that every student, regardless of background, has access to a high-quality education. We will not stand idly by as public education is placed on the chopping block. We expect Congress to protect the future of education in America.

The members of AAUW of Virginia know we can count on you to do everything in your power to ensure an education system that respects and nurtures all students. We are happy to meet with you and your staff at any time to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Lane Stone,
President
AAUW of Virginia

Springfield-Annandale Branch
of AAUW of Virginia

presents

Spring Fling

Friday, May 9, 2025

11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Springfield Golf and Country Club
8301 Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield 22152



Guest Speaker: Juliana Valencia

Emmy-Award winning reporter in two
languages for News 4 and Telemundo 44,
and part of the News 4 Today team and
a regular fill-in Anchor

Make your reservation no later than **April 26** to:

Rose Clark SpringflingAAUW@gmail.com

Let Rose know of your luncheon meal choice:

- Chicken Piccata with lemon sauce
- Filet of Salmon with citrus beurre sauce
- Pasta Primavera

Coffee, tea, and iced tea are included



Also include Table Buddies ("seat me with") names and email addresses

*Silent Auction
11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.*

Tickets are \$50.00

Pay By Check

\$50 check made payable to *Springfield-Annandale AAUW*

Mail to Rose Clark, 330 S. West Street, #303, Alexandria, VA 22314-5928

Pay By PayPal +\$1.49 charge

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/5GRTDEC9JTYP>

BRANCH OFFICERS

2024 - 2025

Co-presidents: Sylvia Linke (SFLaauw@gmail.com) & Diane Schrier (diane.schrier@gmail.com)

VP Membership: Dr. Felicia Goss (FMGoss@icloud.com)

VP Program: Dr. Gail Kalin, (gailkalin@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Lane Stone (LaneStoneAAUWVA@gmail.com)

AAUW Funds: Susan Cash (scash5558@gmail.com)

Diversity and Inclusion: Dr. Gail Kalin (gailkalin@yahoo.com)

Public Policy: Diane Schrier (diane.schrier@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Anne Simpson (aseyedoc@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Eugenia Burkes (eugeniaburkes@mac.com)

Special Interest Group Leaders:

Campus Outreach: Danielle Beach (danielleaauw@gmail.com)

Christ House Dinners: Margaret Zebrowski (Mmzebrow@aol.com) & Jan Jaynes (janjjoek@verizon.net)

Diversity Book Group: Bonnie Hershberg (hersh3b@gmail.com)

Francophile Group: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com

Gourmet Out Group: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com

Great Decisions: Lynn O'Connell (lynnoconnellva@gmail.com)

Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net)