

# VOTER GUIDE 2019

## One Member / One Vote

Online voting for AAUW of Virginia's One Member/One Vote process for the **election of state officers will begin April 13**. It is very important that you **cast your online vote by the deadline of May 4** because **we need a quorum of seven (7) percent of the membership for the election**. If we don't have a quorum, the new state officers cannot take office on July 1, 2019. **The branch with the highest percentage of members voting in the election will earn a special reward!!**

**Please take the time to vote as a responsible AAUW of Virginia member.**

### **Schedule of 2019 voting**

- **February 15–March 23:** Verify that your email address is accurate in the [AAUW Member Services Database](#) (MSD), AAUW National Profile (instructions below).
- **April 13:** Online voting opens
- **May 4:** Online voting closes at 11:59 p.m.

### **Save this copy of *Virginia Vision*.**

This is the Voter Guide for the 2019 AAUW of Virginia state election. This year you will be voting only for candidates for state office. Information about the candidates is contained in this Voter Guide. You will also have the opportunity to meet nominees for state officer positions at the AAUW of Virginia business meeting at the State Conference in Vinton, Virginia, on April 6. After this initial publication of the Voter Guide, there may be updates and, if there are, we will notify you and post the updated Voter Guide on the state website (<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/>).

According to the AAUW of Virginia Bylaws, the board can accept additional nominations for any of the three positions being filled so long as any nomination is submitted in writing (which includes email); has the written consent of the nominee; and is made to the Nominating Committee Chair Sandy Lawrence at [sandyaauw@juno.com](mailto:sandyaauw@juno.com) within 30 days of this Voter Guide being distributed in the Winter/Spring 2019 edition of the *Vision*.

### **Verify your email address in your AAUW national profile in MSD.**

Go to the [AAUW Member Services Database](#) on the AAUW website. Use your member number and your password to log-in. If you do not know your member number, follow the directions you receive when clicking on MSD to obtain it. It takes only seconds. Your branch treasurer can also give you your member number. If you do not have a password, follow the instructions to create a password. Complete this task now, or at the latest, by March 23. While updating your email address, also update any other information that needs updating.

### **Voting will be made available online to all AAUW of Virginia members with email addresses.**

The email address that AAUW has in your profile in MSD will be the address used to notify you to vote. New members who have joined **by April 1** will be eligible to vote in the 2019 election.

### **Watch for your voting instructions in emails sent between March and May 2019.**

**Do not ignore emails from AAUW of Virginia in March, April, and May! These will contain instructions and reminders about voting. This year is the first year that we will be using software from an outside vendor, ElectionBuddy, to conduct our election and to tally the results. Therefore, individual votes cannot be seen by AAUW of Virginia members. We will let you know when the link to the electronic ballot is emailed to members so that, in case you do not receive the email, you can check your email "Junk" or "Spam" files.**

Questions concerning nominations, candidates, and the election can be directed to **Leslie Tourigny** ([ltourigny@gmail.com](mailto:ltourigny@gmail.com)) or **Sandy Lawrence** ([sandyaauw@juno.com](mailto:sandyaauw@juno.com)).

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## Meet Your Candidates.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate of officers for 2019-2021:

**Vice President for Finance-Marsha Melkonian; Vice President for Membership and Branch Development-Cheryl Spohnholtz; and Recording Secretary-Deborah Dodd.**

Nominating Committee  
Sandy Lawrence, Chair  
Sara Anderson, Mary Froehlich, Marsha Gochenour.  
Kate MacLeod, and Barbara Woodlee

## Candidates for State Office

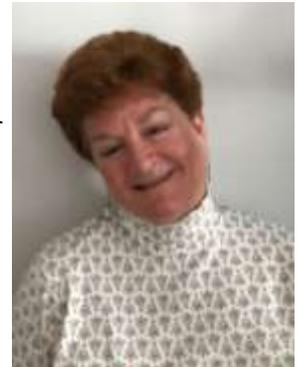
### ◆ Vice President for Finance Marsha Melkonian



Since 2016, Marsha has been a member of the Smith Mountain Branch, where she serves as the publicity chair. She is retired from the Internal Revenue Service, where she worked for 33 years as a computer programmer and training branch chief. Marsha graduated from the University of Maryland with a BS degree in marketing, and from George Washington University with an MA degree in American history. Before her retirement, Marsha lived in Warrenton, Virginia, where she belonged to the Fauquier Business and Professional Women's Club and was an active volunteer with other community organizations. Marsha is married and the mother of two adult sons. Her hobbies include quilting, crocheting, scrapbooking, and cardmaking.

### ◆ Vice President for Membership and Branch Development Cheryl Spohnholtz

Cheryl has been a member of the Mt. Vernon Branch since she joined AAUW in March 2013. In March 2017 she developed a women's leadership panel program for the branch. Since July 2018, she has been a Co-Vice President for Program for AAUW of Virginia, and from 2016-2018 she was the AAUW of Virginia Funds Chair. Cheryl is retired as a senior project leader for the Aerospace Corporation, supporting the development and acquisition of future space systems. She is also a retired Navy captain with over 24 years of service. Cheryl was a member of the first class of women to attend the U.S. Naval Academy, where she graduated from in 1980 with a BS in political science. She also holds a master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Systems Technology (Space Operations) and an MBA from Liberty University. Her military career included tours in computers, intelligence, communications, and space systems. Cheryl enjoys traveling, reading, and supporting AAUW activities. She is a single mother of one son and has lived in Virginia since 2000.



### ◆ Recording Secretary Deborah Dodd



Deborah has been an active member of the Springfield-Annandale Branch since joining AAUW in 2009. She served on the board as secretary for three years and as co-president for four years. She edited the Springfield-Annandale monthly newsletter for seven years. Deborah was on the STEMtastics planning committee. Currently, she publishes and updates the branch membership directory. AAUW has given her the opportunity to lobby in Richmond and on Capitol Hill with other dedicated AAUW members from around the state for causes that are important to her.

Deborah has a BS in elementary education from George Mason University. She is retired from the Fairfax County Public School System where she taught kindergarten and assisted in special education classrooms. Deborah is that most unusual individual – a native Virginian. She is active in the LWV and volunteers at her local elementary school. Deborah enjoys traveling far and wide and belongs to two AAUW-sponsored book groups.