

**AAUW** advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

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.

## In This Issue

Commitment March	1
Co-Presidents' Message	2
Membership	3
2020 Summer Leadership Meeting	4
Bylaws	6
Public Policy	6
Finance	7
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	7
2021 AAUW-VA Conference	8
AAUW 5 Star Program	9
College and University Partners	9
Branches in Action	10-13
Status of ERA	14
Turning Point Suffragist Memorial	14
Legacy Circle	15
Historian	15
AAUW-VA Board of Directors	16
Branch Presidents	17
Contact Us	17
Calendar 2020-2021	18-19
Vote	Back Cover

A Publication of  
AAUW of Virginia  
Vol. 97 No. 1

**D**espite a heat index nearing triple digits and coronavirus concerns, **Suzanne Rothwell** (Co-President) and **Nadine James** (VP for Program) were among the thousands assembled on August 28 at the Lincoln Memorial for the **Commitment March: Get Your Knee Off Our Necks**. The march was organized by the National Action Network on the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. A recurring theme of the march was that 57 years of action had yet to realize Dr. King's dream.

## A Call for Justice

### Commitment March on Washington 2020



*\*Photo by Suzanne Rothwell*

The relatives of **Jacob Blake, George Floyd, Eric Garner, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and Trayvon Martin**, among others, stood with **Reverend Al Sharpton** on the memorial steps. Speakers called for an inclusive census count, mobilization of voters for November's election, congressional approval of the **John Lewis Voting Rights Act** and the **George Floyd Police Reform Act**.

**Martin Luther King III** stressed that "We need you to vote as if your lives, our livelihoods, our liberties depend on it. Because they do," he said. "There's a knee upon the neck of democracy, and our nation can only live so long without the oxygen of freedom."

*(Continued on page 5)*

## AAUW of Virginia Elected Officers

- ◆ **Co-Presidents**  
Suzanne Rothwell  
Leslie Tourigny
- ◆ **Vice President for Program**  
Nadine James
- ◆ **Vice President for Membership and Branch Development**  
Cheryl Spohnholtz
- ◆ **Vice President for Finance**  
Marsha Melkonian
- ◆ **Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy**  
Susan Burk  
Denise Murden
- ◆ **Vice President for Communications**  
Patsy Quick
- ◆ **Recording Secretary**  
Deborah Dodd

<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/contact-us/>

<http://aauw-va.aauw.net/>

### VIRGINIA VISION

**Copy Editor:**  
Mary Anne Graham

**Layout Editor:**  
Bianca Daugherty

## From your Co-Presidents



Here we are in October 2020—almost four months into our partnership as AAUW of Virginia co-presidents. Our sincere appreciation to all of you who put your trust in us for two years. Working with a great team on the state board and in our 24 branches around the Commonwealth, we have the best talents to navigate the exceptional challenges we face as individuals and as an organization. In order to set the stage for going forward, let's back-up and see how we got here.

December 31, 2019. Whether you went out on the town that night or stayed at home with a good book, you probably spent some time reflecting on the year that was ending and on your aspirations for 2020. In your wildest dreams—or nightmares—about 2020, we are certain you never envisioned the reality of the last 10 months.

Two pandemics have challenged us as individuals, as an organization, as a country, and as a world community: a health pandemic and systemic racism. The health pandemic is a new threat that has us in a constant state of worry about the well-being of ourselves, loved ones, neighbors, and the world community. We canceled the April state conference and were introduced to virtual programming and the word Zoom as a noun and a verb. Now all we seem to do is Zoom.

On May 25, 2020, **George Floyd**, a 46-year-old African-American man, was murdered by police officers in Minneapolis. Camera footage captured all 8 minutes and 46 seconds of this horrendous crime. There

was worldwide consternation—yet it was not a surprise—especially for people of color in our country. Systemic racism is baked into our history—too long standing in the way of forming that more perfect union our Constitution promised.

As bad as these threats are—and they are—they also provide opportunities for us to change - and change we must. As individuals and as an organization. On June 1, AAUW's CEO **Kim Churches** committed our organization **to fight "...for justice, long-term and lasting change" and to "...stand in solidarity against racism."** Let's commit ourselves to this fight.

In July 2018, the AAUW-VA Board of Directors launched a diversity and inclusion initiative. It wasn't a one-time event. It's been a continuing process of listening, learning, and taking action—with no end in sight. **In 2019, we added a position of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) chair to the state board and Cyndi Shanahan** of the Reston-Herndon Area Branch was selected to fill the position. She is working with a network of contacts in the branches. Check out the extensive DE&I resources that **Cyndi** created on our website, along with VP for Communications **Patsy Quick**, to assist branches in conducting related activities. The important thing is that we are not just saying the right things—we must be doing the right things— and there is plenty more to do. Please be part of this change.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## District Representatives

### Northern

Sara Anderson  
Sandy Lawrence

### Northwest

Sylvia Rogers  
Carol Stephens

### Southeast

Tammie Mullins-  
Rice

### Southwest

Anita Aymer

*From your Co-Presidents (Continued from page 2)*

Faced with these dual pandemics, our state organization and branches have continued to advance equity for women and girls. The pages of this *Vision* are replete with examples of innovative ways AAUW of Virginia and our branches have remained close while social distancing—in programming, advocacy, and fundraising. Let’s not reinvent the wheel. Replicating great ideas from other branches is encouraged. Virtual branch programs can reach greater audiences by sharing with other branches. Our July 25-27 **Summer Leadership Meeting** certainly did this. Read more about this on pages 4 and 5 and on our AAUW of Virginia website.

Although the format and delivery of our advocacy work may have changed for the present time, the issues that we have prioritized haven’t. Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy **Susan Burk and Denise Murden** developed our blueprint for this program year. Read more about this on page 6 and on our website.

Don’t forget to seize upon opportunities to collaborate with other groups with similar interests whenever you can. Not only can this be a winning formula in presenting programs and enhancing advocacy efforts, but also it can improve our DE&I results. Read more about this on page 7.

The national **AAUW Board of Directors** proposed a \$10 dues increase to commence in July 2021, which they will

vote on at their October 16 meeting. The **AAUW of VA Board of Directors** submitted a comment to AAUW recommending that AAUW phase in the \$10 total increase over a three-year period, rather than all at once. The AAUW-VA Board recognizes that AAUW, like other non-profits, is experiencing a decline in income to cover operating expenses resulting from the economic impact of the coronavirus.

This year we not only celebrate the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**, which guaranteed voting rights to women, but also the **55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965**, which prohibited the racial discrimination that prevented persons of color from voting. Join us in robust actions to provide nonpartisan voter education efforts so that more women vote in the upcoming General Election. AAUW believes that when women vote, we change the conversation.

When we speak of voting, the legacy of the late, great Congressman **John Lewis** looms large. He wrote:

“Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society.”

Let’s make his words live on in the actions we take.

Leslie and Suzanne

## Membership

### There is still time to renew!

Congratulations to the nine branches that have over **90% renewals** for 2020-2021: **Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church Area, McLean Area, Mt. Vernon, Portsmouth, Smith Mountain, Virginia Beach, and Winchester.**

Portsmouth **has achieved 100% renewals!** Given the continued requirement for social distancing and limitations on large group gatherings, it has been challenging for some branches to complete their renewals. I’m available to assist – as are your district representatives. Let us know how we can help.

One way to be sure your communications are reaching your members is to encourage everyone to check their email address in the Membership Services Database (MSD). If that email is incorrect, the electronic renewal notices will not be received. To check your account, go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org), select the membership tab in the upper-right corner, and then select the Membership Services Database arrow (5<sup>th</sup> down in the list). Members will need their membership number and password to log in (if it is the first time accessing the MSD, the member will need to create an account). On the left-hand side at the top, there is a button that says My Profile/My Membership Card. Click that button, and you can see your contact information. If you need to update your information, click where indicated. That’s it!

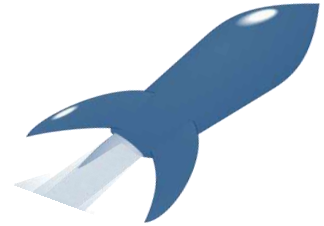


*Cheryl Spohnholtz*  
VP for Membership



# ZOOMING TO NEW HEIGHTS!

## *The Summer Leadership Meeting (SLM) 2020*



A record number of AAUW-VA members attended our **Summer Leadership Meeting** on July 25, 26, and 27. Each day there was a two-hour webinar featuring dynamic speakers with 75 to 93 members attending. Useful information is at [Summer Leadership Meeting on the AAUW of Virginia website](#).

**SLM Day 1** was opened by Co-President **Leslie Tourigny**, who welcomed members and introduced our keynote speaker. **Mark Bowers**, founder and executive director of the Professional Development Consortium of Hampton Roads, shared advice on “**Lead Smarter, Not Harder**” methods. Mark emphasized that branches should have a full calendar of programs and activities and target publicity of these events to members and non-members.

Co-President **Suzanne Rothwell** informed us that AAUW had achieved a balanced budget by reducing annual spending by \$8 million. She focused on the expansion of **AAUW’s advocacy efforts, the success of Work Smart Online, and a pilot program for Equity Network supporters**. She encouraged members to watch AAUW’s webinars on issues of significant importance.

Advice on the AAUW **Five Star National Recognition Program** was provided by members of two five-star branches: President **Janine Greenwood**, Reston-Herndon Area Branch, and President **Jeanette Olson** and Finance Officer **Tammie Mullins-Rice**, Virginia Beach Branch. They emphasized that branches should be organized in developing their Five Star application by creating a chart to track progress and assign responsibilities. They urged branches to obtain recognition for previously completed activities and advised that the program had helped focus branch activities on AAUW’s priorities and mission.

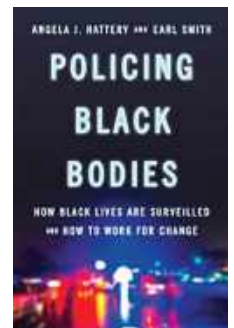
**SLM Day 2** focused on AAUW’s public policy priorities at the federal and state level. Lead-off speaker **Kate Nielson**, AAUW’s Director for Public Policy and Legal Advocacy, updated members on efforts at the federal level to advance **pay equity and the ERA**, and to challenge the weakening of **Title IX** protections for victims of sexual assault on college campuses. **Getting out the vote** is

AAUW’s main priority.

Recent UVA Batten School grad, **Madison Roberts**, briefed the SLM on the conclusions of her **Capstone Project** prepared for AAUW-VA on closing the **gender pay gap**. After considering the perspective of stakeholders and potential resistance, she concluded that promotion of a legislative ban on questions about salary history offered the best chance of success.

Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy **Susan Burk** and **Denise Murden** laid out their action plan for the coming year. They described recent state-level legislative measures to increase voters’ access to the ballot and reviewed the redistricting referendum on November’s ballot that will provide a process to achieve fair, non-partisan redistricting. **For 2020-21, economic security for women and families will be the focus and theme of AAUW-VA’s engagement with state legislators**. In addition to pay equity, AAUW will be lobbying for paid sick leave and supporting other legislation that advances economic security. **Burk and Murden** emphasized the importance of building a coalition of like-minded organizations around these issues to amplify our message.

**SLM Day 3** focused on understanding the problems of, and opportunities for, taking actions against systemic racism. **Dr. Janice Underwood**, the first chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer of the Commonwealth of Virginia, said that systemic racism is not the result of a breakdown of systems, but rather because systems are working as they were intended. The result is that there is pervasive, institutionalized inequity and injustice throughout our systems. She, along with **Drs. Earl Smith and Angela Hattery**, authors of “**Policing Black Bodies: How Black Lives are Surveilled and How to Work for Change**,” explained how racism has been institutionalized from the beginning of our country. It began with building White American wealth through the ownership of humans and has continued through our current laws and practices.



*(Continued on page 5)*

*(SLM 2020 continued from page 4)*

**Dr. Underwood** expressed that while there is much progress to be made, she is optimistic that we can replace racism with equality. To do this, she challenged AAUW members to have hard conversations about race, implement the **One Virginia Statewide Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence** as a model, and link arms with other organizations to fight racial injustice and be part of the progress.

**Drs. Smith and Hattery** informed us about the many ways exploitation and violence are committed against African-American women and the long history preceding the systems currently in place. Their call to action is to interrupt the current social and justice systems built on inequity by using our sphere of influence to change policies and systems according to our shared vision of inclusion and ending racism. As the late Congressman **John Lewis** said, "cause good trouble."

### Call to Action:

1. Continue to listen and learn – start book groups, have programming on inequality issues, talk to state and local officials to gain a deeper understanding of the inequities in your locale, and have difficult conversations around your dinner table.
2. Be a catalyst for change by sharing knowledge you have gained with your sphere of influence.
3. Create coalitions with other groups that are like-minded to fight racial injustice.
4. Take an audit of our organization to determine how we can battle racism internally.
5. Get out the vote – register voters, encourage voting.

*Suzanne Rothwell, Co-President  
Susan Burk and Denise Murden, Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy  
Cyndi Shanahan, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Chair*

*(See Cyndi Shanahan's article on DE&I on page 7)*

*(Commitment March continued from page 1)*

**Yolanda Renee King**, Dr. King's 12-year-old granddaughter, galvanized the audience by saying "I want to call on the young people here to join me in pledging that we have only begun the fight, and that we will be the generation that moves from 'me' to 'we' ...We are going to be the generation that dismantles systemic racism for once and for all, now and forever." She closed with the promise that "We will fulfill the dream of my grandfather."

"There are two systems of justice in the United States," said **Jacob Blake Sr.**, father of the man who was shot by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin. "There's a white system and there's a black system. The black system ain't doing so well."

**Philonise Floyd**, the brother of George Floyd, wished his brother were there to see the massive audience. "What will be our legacy?" asked **Bridgett Floyd**, George Floyd's sister. "Will our future generations

remember you for your complacency or your inaction? Or will they remember you for your empathy, your leadership, your passion for weeding out the injustice and evil in our world?"

We felt the speakers' inspiring calls for action and our connection to participants of many diverse backgrounds.

We hoped that there won't be another march in 57 years where another generation of speakers laments the lack of action toward racial justice.



**Suzanne Rothwell, Co-President (left) and Nadine James, VP for Program**

*Suzanne Rothwell  
Co-President*

*\*Photo by Suzanne Rothwell*

## Bylaws

### Call for Proposed State Bylaws Amendments and Proposed Resolutions

The Bylaws/Resolutions Committee is issuing a call for proposed amendments to the state bylaws and for proposed resolutions to be presented at the **AAUW of Virginia Annual Business Meeting, March 13, 2021**. These will be voted on under the **One Member, One Vote** procedure. Please submit bylaws amendments and resolutions to the committee chair by email no later than December 1, 2020, at carol\_dabbs at yahoo.com.

Proposed bylaws amendments must include a copy of the original section of the bylaws being amended, a marked-up version showing the specific wording of the amendment, and a clean version showing the language as it would be revised. The bylaws amendment proposal must include a statement of the rationale for the amendment.

Each proposed resolution must include the specific wording of the resolution, a statement of the rationale for the proposed resolution, and a proposed plan for the implementation of the resolution.



*Carol Dabbs  
Bylaws and Resolutions Chair*

## Public Policy

### Challenges and Opportunities



The ongoing pandemic has both highlighted and exacerbated inequities that contribute to economic insecurity in many communities, especially among women and families. **Closing the gender pay gap** remains the primary focus of our state advocacy efforts, especially given growing evidence that the pandemic has set those efforts back. Pay equity is just one issue in a broader economic security agenda that **includes establishing a right to paid sick leave, raising the minimum wage, and addressing discrimination in the workplace**. In 2020, Virginia legislators advanced this agenda by banning retaliation against employees who share salary information, raising the minimum wage gradually until it reaches \$15/hour in 2026, and providing legal protections for pregnant workers. For more details on specific legislative goals and their status,

check the notes on the slides from Day 2 of our Summer Leadership Meeting on the AAUW of Virginia website.

Because conditions will not permit our travel to Richmond for in-person State Lobby Day(s) during the 2021 General Assembly session, stay tuned for our alternate plans. We encourage members to start engaging with your legislators via letters, emails, and phone calls. Let's make our representatives accountable to us to build on recent progress by passing legislation that strengthens economic security for women and families.

AAUW-VA's Public Policy agenda is broad and ambitious. However, we are encouraged by the work AAUW-VA's branches are doing to bring attention to and address a wide range of related issues, including eliminating human trafficking; providing opportunities for young girls to consider STEM careers; advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion; completing the process to include the ERA in our Constitution; and getting out the vote. Thank you for all you do to promote equity for women and girls!

*Susan Burk/Denise Murden  
Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy*

## Finance

### AAUW of VA 2020-21 Budget



The budget for 2020-2021 was approved with minor changes at the summer 2020 board meeting. The opening checking account balance was \$40,708.59, including investment funds. The predicted/budgeted income from dues, investment dividends, checking account interest, and AAUW of Virginia history book sales is \$15,002.00. No withdrawal of investment funds is in the budget this year.

The projected disbursements including board meetings, travel, insurance, and newsletters are \$15,000.00. It also includes \$1,500 support for NCCWSL and \$1,600 for mini-grants to branches for Public Policy projects.

If you would like more information, or a detailed budget, please email me. See p. 17 re email addresses.

*Marsha Melkonian  
Vice President for Finance*

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

### Listen. Learn. Take Action.

Across the nation and our state, AAUW members are making efforts to learn about and support our Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC) community members. We continue to listen to members of our community and learn more about the history of those subject to systemic racism and inequity.

We have learned through **Dr. Taharee Jackson's** presentation, "**Conversations on Race, Equity, and Inclusion**" (available on the AAUW website), that those who are in the empowered group are most able to make a difference in the equity of those who are suppressed. In other words, they can suppress or become supporters of the unempowered group. This means that those of us who have privilege need to take up the mantle of equity for our BIPOC community. As continues to be true in our long history of working toward gender equity, we have been reminded by experts of diversity, equity, and inclusion that the work of changing ourselves, our communities, and our country to be more equitable is a lifelong effort, not one that is quickly resolved.

In mid-September, the DE&I points of contact within 19 of our 24 branches came together to share the actions

that they are taking in support of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Each came away from that conversation engaged and excited about the possibilities for your branch to make a difference in your community while being in alignment with the AAUW mission, vision, and values. Discussed was collaboration with other organizations whose makeup is different than ours, but whose mission, vision and values are similar! I

encourage each of you to continue to look in your community for these types of organizations to share and collaborate with. It will help us sew the fabric of our community into a closer and more empathetic place to be.

In Virginia, we have accomplished a great deal this past year related to the study and improvement of diversity, equity, and inclusion within our communities.

We have learned from recent events that we have a long way to go to achieve our goals, but we are on our path. We must continue to work to listen, learn and finally, take action.



*Cyndi Shanahan  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair*



**AAUW of Virginia Conference**  
**Save The Date and Cross Your Fingers 2021!!!**  
**March 12-14, 2021**



We are certain that no one needs a reminder as to why, after hundreds of hours of planning by a great conference committee, our 2020 State Conference in Alexandria was cancelled five weeks before it was to occur. Being the optimists that we are, it will be even better in 2021!!

The conference is being hosted by the Northern District at the

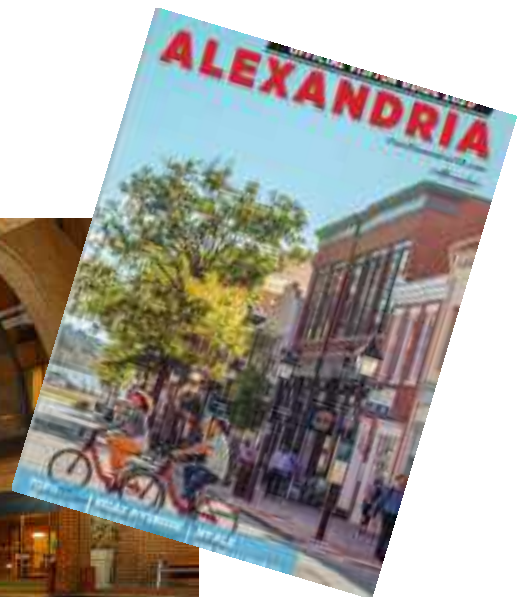
**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Alexandria - Old Town, 625 First Street.**

The Winter/Spring 2021 issue of *Vision* will have the complete conference guide and registration information. King or double rooms are available for \$129 per night plus tax, for March 12 and 13, 2021. In case you want to build a mini vacation around the conference, the hotel will offer the same rate for two days before and after these dates. There is parking at the hotel for a special rate of \$8 per day, or if you are lucky, you may be able to find free on-street parking around the hotel. The good news is that it's not too early to reserve a guest room if you plan on staying at the hotel. If you reserve now, you'll help us determine if we have to add additional rooms to our block. There is no deposit required. You can cancel without penalty up until two days prior to your reservation.

To make guest room reservations, use this link [American Association of University Women of Virginia](http://www.American Association of University Women of Virginia). You can also reserve a guest room by phone at 1.888.335.2621. The group code is AUW or you can mention American Association of University Women of Virginia.

NOTE: Below is the link to the City's tourist bureau.

<https://www.visitalexandriava.com/>



**STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.**



# THE AAUW PROGRAM

## Update on Virginia's Stars!

Congratulations to our three five-star branches and four other Virginia branches that have received stars in the **AAUW Five Star National Recognition Program**. Virginia is leading the way with branch participation in the Five Star Program.

**FIVE STARS – Virginia Beach, Reston-Herndon Area, and Woodbridge**

**FOUR STARS – Alexandria and Vienna Area**

**TWO STARS – Springfield-Annandale**

**ONE STAR – Fairfax City**

Additionally, we were pleased to announce at the July Summer Leadership Meeting that **AAUW of Virginia was awarded three stars for Advancement, Communications & External Relations, and Public Policy & Research**. AAUW of Virginia is the first state to receive stars under the Recognition Program. Many thanks to all who contributed so much time and effort to achieving mission-based goals for AAUW over the past year.

We encourage branches to apply for stars so that our national office will recognize their activities. To earn stars, go to [Five Star](#). Log into the AAUW site, if not already logged in. Then press the button that says: "apply now." Several of the stars are very achievable without completing any more actions based on branch activities in 2019 – 2021; others require a few more actions to complete. See the Summer Leadership Meeting article on page 4 for good advice from the two Five Star branches to help other branches earn stars for their hard work.

If you have questions – please contact me!

*Cheryl Spohnholtz*  
Vice President for Membership

## College and University Partners

There are currently 20 higher education partners across Virginia. A quick survey of their websites in early August indicated that some are returning to distance learning this fall. Other institutions plan to use a hybrid format with a combination of in-person and online classes. Few were planning to return to full in-person instruction. Plans at these colleges and universities have likely shifted since then, as the covid-19 outbreak continues.

The pandemic has created a particularly challenging assignment for the college/university branch representatives as we look for ways to engage students at partner institutions. Early guidance from AAUW suggests we focus on online offerings such as Work Smart and promote fellowship opportunities. To that end, a Zoom meeting on September 24 was scheduled to exchange ideas and information with the seven branch members on the committee. Connecting with these institutions is most important for the future of AAUW.



*Barbara Woodlee*  
College/University Chair

# Branches in Action

The **Alexandria Branch** hosted three Lunch & Learn Zoom sessions during the summer. On July 22, branch members were briefed by **Dr. Cynthia Pascal**, interim associate vice president & interim Title IX coordinator, Northern VA Community College, on upcoming changes to Title IX. The program had 17 total attendees; 13 were from the branch. On August 6, **Brian Cannon** from [OneVirginia/Fair Maps VA](#), spoke on redistricting reform. This will be the first amendment listed on the November ballot. Out of a total of 39 attendees, 10 were from the branch. On August 12, **Jaqueline Tucker**, race and social equity officer for the City of Alexandria, spoke about the importance of being *actively antiracist*.

Lane Stone  
Co-President

The **Arlington Branch** continues programming keyed to the strategic goals of AAUW. You (and your friends) are invited to attend; see the list below. Details are posted on our website (<https://arlington-va.aauw.net/>). Contact [presarlvaauw@gmail.com](mailto:presarlvaauw@gmail.com) to request the Zoom invitation for each program.

**10/17, 10 a.m.**, Challenging Racism, *Confirmed Speaker*, Executive Director **Alicia McLeod**, Challenging Racism. (This is the Northern District meeting program also.)

**11/10, 6 p.m.**, "Transformational Role of Women's Advocacy and Leadership in a Monumental Year," *Confirmed Participants*, **Mary Margaret Whipple**, former state senator, and President **Stacey D. Stewart**, March of Dimes. (Collaboration with other Arlington women's organizations.)

**12/12, Noon**, virtual holiday celebration honoring the branch's 2020 Scholarship and Educator of the Year winners, and new Honorary Life Members.

**01/23, 10:30 a.m.**, tentative, Title IX Update Based on new Department of Education Regulations/Sexual Harassment on Campus, *Speaker TBD*. (Snow date, Feb 20, 10:30 a.m.).

Carol Dabbs  
President

**Fairfax City Branch's** first virtual meeting was *Suffrage at 100: A Visual History*. **Kitty Lou Smith** presented the *New York Times* power point visual history. November 14, at 11 a.m., the branch will present its 27th

Book and Author event. This is the branch's scholarship fundraiser and typically a luncheon - although this year it will be virtual AND free to all who register for it by emailing **Paulette Miller** ([psmiller10847at.verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847at.verizon.net)). The four wonderful women authors who were scheduled to present at this year's luncheon have all enthusiastically offered to join in a virtual Book and Author gathering. The books will be:

- **Essential Advice from Eleanor Roosevelt**
- **Miracle Creek: A Novel**
- **What Doesn't Kill You**
- **The Lipstick Brigade: The Untold True Story of Washington's World War II Government Girls.**

Please join this webinar – donations appreciated!

Dianne Blais  
President

The **Harrisonburg Branch's** 2020 events began with a program on women in music. On March 7, the branch joined with **Mayor Deanna Reed** (honorary branch member), and a Congolese women's group that for several years has celebrated International Women's Day locally, to lead a crowd of 200 in advocacy, song, and dance on the city's Court Square. The following week, covid-19 forced us to begin isolating while acquainting ourselves with that now ubiquitous phenomenon, Zoom. The branch has endured. We've shared group emails of poetry and coping strategies, virtually toasted the August 18 suffrage centennial, continued not only with board functions but lively group explorations of diversity issues, the Great Decisions global affairs discussion program, and in late September, hosted the Northwest District meeting. Remaining events planned include a discussion, "Women's Issues in the 2020 Elections;" a presentation, "The Loneliness Epidemic;" and a Zoomed holiday music singalong.

Chris Edwards  
Program Co-Chair

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone, but the pandemic has also highlighted the inequities and racial divisions that profoundly impact the lives of Black Americans and minorities. The **McLean Area Branch** plans to continue with its mission of advocating inclusion, diversity, and gender equality. This year's program

(Continued on page 11)

# Branches in Action

*(Continued from page 10)*

theme is “Confronting and Addressing Today’s Issues: The Pandemic’s Impact on Women and Minorities.” The first speaker program is the November branch meeting with authors **Drs. Angela J. Hattery and Earl Smith** discussing racial injustice as described in their book “Policing Black Bodies.” Other programs include topics such as advocacy through arts and the role of women of color in their struggle to vote.

While constrained by the lack of in-person meetings, branch members reach beyond the pandemic to search for new ways to support women and families, to be more inclusive, and to continue to support AAUW’s mission.

*Carol Mournigham/Nez Basit  
Co-Presidents*

The **Portsmouth Branch** Zoomed into this program year with the first branch meeting (after a summer break) held on September 21. We focused our discussion on options for supporting the AAUW initiatives to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion during this first meeting. All meetings will be held via Zoom through 2020. We continue to have an active book group that has continued meeting via Zoom. We look forward to our lively monthly discussions each month.

*Phyllis Shannon  
President*

The **Reston-Herndon Area Branch** celebrated diversity, equity, and inclusion in September by viewing together and discussing AAUW National’s program with **Dr. Taharre Jackson** “Holding Space: How to Start and Continue Conversations on Race, Equity, and Inclusion.” The branch’s Streaming Group will be discussing the PBS program “The Vote” with special attention to the struggles of Black suffragists. The Book Group will be reading “The Moment of Lift” and discussing its message on the importance of empowering women in all cultures. In late August, members took a lesson from the Suffrage Schools of the Black suffragists and heard a detailed briefing from Fairfax County’s **Kate Hanley** on the new voting procedures in Virginia to ensure that all our members’ votes count. Zoom is empowering for members; participation in all activities is up. We continue our collaborations with

the local League of Women Voters and the Dulles-Reston National Council of Negro Women. Finally, the board will again be reaching out to members with a survey to get feedback on past activities and suggestions for the future.

*Janine Greenwood  
President*

The **Roanoke Valley Branch** is back in the swing after a LONG, hot, crazy, covid summer. We kicked off our year with a social-distancing picnic at a local park to enjoy much needed fellowship and to share plans for the upcoming year. We are excited about our upcoming voter registration event and other fall programs.



*Photo by HelenRuth Burch*

We are getting more familiar with the virtual platforms that have kept us in touch and are ever mindful of the needs of members who are not comfortable with computer use by calling and sending cards. In addition to our leadership meetings, the branch has continued the book group and diversity group on Zoom.

Because of health concerns, the August book sale was canceled, but a small group of dedicated workers continue to sort and shelve books weekly. Hopefully, the February sale will be possible. Until then, we adjust, support each other, and forge ahead!

*Pat Hales  
Catherine Wright, President*

# Branches in Action

Four young ladies from local elementary schools attended the Forensics Camp, June 29 - July 3 at the Science Museum of Western Virginia. The camp was sponsored by the **Smith Mountain Branch** Outreach Program; donations to the branch were used, along with a \$500 mini-grant from AAUW-VA. In addition to the camp scholarship, each of the girls received a note from the branch president, a certificate, and a \$50 gift card to help with expenses for transportation and lunch.

The International Study Group conducted its first group meeting since January. Studying Morocco, the outdoor event occurred at the Booker T. Washington Monument in July with face masks, folding chairs, and cold drinks. The group looked forward to a cooler outdoor meeting in September.

The Classics Book Group had a Zoom meeting in June, with members discussing books recently read and recommended. In August, the group met to discuss "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson.

The branch looked forward to the September Zoom meeting which was joined by AAUW of VA Co-Presidents **Leslie Tourigny and Suzanne Rockwell**.

*Laura Southall  
Communications*

The **Southeast District** fall meeting will be a virtual meeting on Saturday, October 24, 2020 - welcome and announcements at 10:30 a.m.; the meeting to start at 11 a.m. The speaker will be **Mark Bowers**, the executive director of Professional Development Consortium of Hampton Roads. **Mr. Bowers** will help us walk through the process of recruiting members post-covid 19. There will be time for a brief report from each of the district's branches to share successes and concerns.

*Tammie Mullins-Rice  
Southeast District Representative*

**Springfield/Annandale Branch** will examine issues around racism this fall. September's meeting had **Dr. Jane Censer**, retired George Mason history professor and branch member, speaking on "Black and White Women of the Civil War Era." In November, **Sean Perryman**, president of the Fairfax County Branch of NAACP, will be addressing inclusion and diversity in Fairfax County.

**Dr. Gloria Addo-Ajensu**, director of the Fairfax County Health Department, will discuss covid-19's impact on women and families and other health challenges for minorities in our communities in January. All meetings will be on Zoom.

On the lighter side, the December meeting will be on Holiday Treats and Traditions with members grabbing coffee and cookies or wine and cheese and virtually sharing their favorite holiday treat or family tradition.

*Judy Baldwin  
Co-President*

Like our sister branches, the **Vienna Area Branch** is adapting to pandemic living while carrying on the AAUW mission. The branch's first foray into virtual meeting technology was a success, with members and guests logging in to hear **Kat Calvin**, founder and executive director of Spread the Vote, speak about barriers to voting and how we can help eliminate them. **Aimee Martin**, Co-VP for Program, organized the September 8 event. Because we cannot conduct our usual in-person voter registration, Voter Advocacy Chair **Kristin Moyer** recruited members to write letters under the auspices of Vote Forward, on a non-partisan basis, to encourage registered voters to participate in the November election.



The branch's small groups are meeting via Zoom—even the movie group! A local theater streams select movies online; the members watch them at their convenience, then meet virtually to discuss them. We are a resourceful, resilient group.

*Laurie Genevra Cole  
President*



# Branches in Action



How do you encourage voter turn-out in the midst of a pandemic? Not being able to coordinate the usual voter registration drives made the **Virginia Beach Branch** become creative. The branch decided that posting yard signs in members' front lawns might remind people to vote. While we were at it, we tied voting in with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage. We still have some signs left if you have a naked front yard near south Hampton Roads. Call Sally D. at 757-495-4349 to get a free sign!

*Jeanette Olson, President  
Sally Daniel, VP for Program*

The **Winchester Branch** canceled all activities and the newsletter last spring. The board communicated via emails and decided to meet on a large porch with masks at the end of July and again at the end of August. The board authorized the purchase of a Zoom account. **Membership VP Sherry Lloyd** contacted members by phone in August to check on them and ask for program ideas. We resumed our monthly newsletter in September. We have had several practice sessions using Zoom and encouraged members to participate in the Northwest District meeting on September 26. In October, the branch will focus on getting all members and friends to vote safely. The first virtual branch meeting may be in November.

*Mary Froehlich  
President*

The **Wytheville Branch** opened its new 2020/21 year with an in-person meeting on September 17. Due to the pandemic, instead of our usual New Membership/Welcome Back dinner, we had cupcakes at an outdoor venue. Everyone was required to bring their own drinks and wear masks. In October, the branch is planning a Zoom meeting with **Sue Joyce**, who presents Unconscious Bias seminars. Hopefully, she will be able to have an in-person presentation in the spring, which would be open to the public. Plans for the uncertain future will be a successful STEM program for Wythe County middle school girls in the spring. The branch has had monthly Zoom meetings since May and will continue to have these until circumstances change. The branch is looking forward to the new year and hopes that our mission and message will continue to bring hope, encouragement, and positive results to the girls and women of Wythe County.

*Julie Kause  
President*



"When I'm sometimes asked 'When will there be enough (women on the Supreme Court)?' and my answer is: 'When there are nine.' People are shocked. But there'd been nine men, and nobody's ever raised a question about that."

Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

## The Status of the Equal Rights Amendment

On January 8, when the Virginia legislative session began, the National Archives and Records Administration announced that the Archivist would not publish or certify the ERA amendment if approved by Virginia, as is necessary to add it to the Constitution, unless directed to by a court order. On January 27, when Virginia became the 38<sup>th</sup> and final state needed to ratify the ERA amendment, the Archivist was notified. He refused to certify the ratifications of Virginia, Illinois, or Nevada.



Branch, and 17 other organizations joined to submit an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief in the case. Our gratitude is extended to **Patricia Wallace**, a lawyer and member of the Greater Richmond Branch, for organizing the amicus group and participating in the preparation of the brief. On June 29, our amicus brief was filed with the District Court.

Our brief speaks from the perspective of those in the three states who devoted substantial resources to ratification. In particular, the group argued that the Court

On January 30, Virginia, Illinois, and Nevada sued the Archivist by filing a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that asked the Court to order the Archivist to certify the ratifications and publish the ERA as the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution.

should recognize the rights of the plaintiff states as legal protectors of the well-being of their citizens to compel the publication of the ERA. We hope that the District Court will soon issue a decision.

AAUW of Virginia, Illinois, Nevada, the Greater Richmond

*Suzanne Rothwell*  
Co-President



On January 1, 2008, what was then the Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority, offered land in Occoquan Regional Park to the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area to build a suffrage memorial. This was the site of the former Occoquan Workhouse, where suffragists who silently picketed the White House in 1917 were imprisoned. "There they were beaten, forced to work, slept in rat-infested cells on bug-ridden mattresses, and fed food crawling with maggots....When word leaked out about this inhumane treatment, it became the turning point in winning the right to vote."

Less than three years later, on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was certified: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

On January 1, 2011, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association (TPSMA) was incorporated and began a campaign to design and fund a suffrage memorial that will "... provide an overview of the entire movement, including African-American suffragists who are often left out of the history books."

The memorial was to be dedicated on August 26, 2020—the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Unfortunately, covid-19 indefinitely postponed the dedication, as well as resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in government funding to evaporate or be deferred. Without full funding, the memorial will have to be finished in stages over time.

Many of you may remember that AAUW of Virginia was one of the early donors. Thanks to the 20 branches who contributed to our \$2,205 donation, AAUW of Virginia will be engraved on the Donor Wall. The McLean Area Branch, the Mount Vernon Branch, the Springfield-Annandale Branch Book Group, and several individual members also met the \$1,000 minimum donations. qualifying each of them to be engraved on the wall. *The memorial is still accepting donations for the Donor Wall until October 31, 2020, and certainly needs support.*

*(Source: Turning Point Suffragist Memorial website)*

*Leslie Tourigny*  
Co-President



## Benefits of Planning in Times of Change

During the covid-19 pandemic, many AAUW members have been thinking about their legacy and their desire to include AAUW in their plans. Putting a plan in place or ensuring that your plan is current can provide peace of mind during times of change. Whether you are thinking about legacy giving for the first time or want to revisit your current plan, AAUW and the **AAUW Legacy Circle Team** are here to help.

The top three motivations that AAUW donors cite for making a planned gift are the importance of AAUW's mission; the belief that AAUW makes a significant impact; and the ability to make a larger gift through an estate gift than is normally possible during the donor's lifetime.

There are many creative and flexible giving options to help you achieve your vision. Popular options include a bequest through your will or trust, naming AAUW a beneficiary of your IRA (which may provide tax benefits while benefitting AAUW), or naming AAUW as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or a bank account. There are also planned giving options that provide income to you for life and give you an immediate charitable tax deduction for the present value of the gift in the year the gift is made.

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of planned giving, please contact **Heather Miller**, AAUW Advancement Director at [millerh@aauw.org](mailto:millerh@aauw.org). **Kristin Moyer** of the AAUW Legacy Circle Team [kcmoyer65atgmail.com](mailto:kcmoyer65atgmail.com) is also available to assist you. You can also find more information on AAUW's website: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>. We would be delighted to welcome you to the Legacy Circle—AAUW's recognition society for our beloved visionaries who are committed to advancing equity for women and girls long into the future.

*Kristin Moyer  
Legacy Circle Team*

## Connecting during Covid Chaos



Perhaps chaos is too strong a word. How about culture or confusion? Whatever we call this environment we're living in, AAUW members are adapting so they can connect and feel part of a branch. A suggestion came from **Caroline Pickens**, who has worked with AAUW archives at the national level, that as AAUW of VA historian, I should collect information from branches about what they're having to do differently this year. When the next AAUW of Virginia history is written, it will make for an interesting chapter.

So, this is a heads-up that I'll be contacting branches in late fall to ask for that information. Don't worry – I won't ask for a formal report. If you want to send information before I ask for it, that's fine ([kbatkin@verizon.net](mailto:kbatkin@verizon.net)). Just make sure I know what branch it's from and who is sending it. I look forward to reading about your covid programs.

*Kathy Batkin  
Historian*

# AAUW Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2020-2021

## **Co-Presidents**

Suzanne Rothwell  
Branch: Vienna Area

Leslie Tourigny  
Branch: Alexandria &  
Virginia Beach

## **VP Program**

Nadine James  
Branch: Vienna Area

## **VP Membership**

Cheryl Spohnholtz  
Branch: Mt. Vernon

## **VP Finance**

Marsha Melkonian  
Branch: Smith Mountain

## **Co-VPs Public Policy**

Susan Burk  
Branch: Springfield-Annandale

Denise Murden  
Branch: Suffolk

## **VP Communications**

Patsy Quick  
Branch: Mt. Vernon

## **Recording Secretary**

Deborah Dodd  
Branch: Springfield-Annandale

## **AAUW Funds Chair**

Caroline Pickens  
Branch: McLean Area

## **College/University Chair**

Barbara Woodlee  
Branch: Virginia Beach

## **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Chair**

Cyndi Shanahan  
Branch: Reston-Herndon Area

## **Bylaws/Resolutions Chair**

Carol Dabbs  
Branch: Arlington

## **Historian**

Kathy Batkin  
Branch: Portsmouth

## **Parliamentarian**

Caroline Pickens  
Branch: McLean Area

## **DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES**

(Nominating Committee)

## **Northern District Co-Representatives**

Sara Anderson  
Branch: Arlington

Sandy Lawrence  
Branch: Woodbridge

## **Northwest District Co-Representatives**

Sylvia Rogers  
Branch: Harrisonburg

Carol Stephens  
Branch: Greater Richmond

## **Southwest District**

Anita Aymer  
Branch: Wytheville

## **Southeast District**

Tammie Mullins-Rice  
Branch: Virginia Beach

## **NON-BOARD POSITIONS**

### **Virginia Vision Copy Editor**

Mary Anne Graham  
Branch: McLean Area &  
Winchester

### **Virginia Vision Layout Editor**

Bianca Daugherty  
Branch: Mt. Vernon

### **Web Manager**

Patsy Quick  
Branch: Mt. Vernon

### **Facebook Manager**

Cheryl Spohnholtz  
Branch: Mt. Vernon

### **Voting and Elections Committee Chair**

Sandy Lawrence  
Branch: Woodbridge



OF VIRGINIA



# 2020-2021 AAUW of Virginia Branch Presidents

## Alexandria

Gail Kalin  
Lane Stone

## Norfolk

Wilma Robinson

## Arlington

Carol Dabbs

## Portsmouth

Phyllis Shannon

## Fairfax City

Dianne Blais  
Kitty Lou Smith

## Reston-Herndon Area

Janine Greenwood

## Falls Church Area

Elizabeth Kessel  
Sharon Zackula

## Roanoke Valley

Cacky Wright

## Greater Manassas

Hannah Senft

## Smith Mountain

DebraLee Hovey

## Greater Richmond

Laura Wimmer

## Springfield-Annandale

Judy Baldwin  
Nancy Miller

## Hampton

Joan Jenkins

## Suffolk

Denise Murden

## Harrisonburg

Laura Zarrugh

## Vienna Area

Laurie Cole

## Lynchburg

Elizabeth Lipscomb  
Katherine Quale

## Virginia Beach

Jeanette Olson

## McLean Area

Naz Basit  
Carol Mournighan

## Winchester

Mary Froehlich

## Mt. Vernon

Patsy Quick

## Woodbridge

Sandra Lawrence

## Newport News

Maggie Keator

## Wytheville

Julie Kause



Individual contact information for state board leaders and branch leaders is not published in the Virginia *Vision*, nor are personal emails on the website. However, it is still quite easy to contact state leaders.

### Here's how to contact state board members:

- 1) On the state website homepage <https://aauw-va.net> click "Contact Us" on the menu bar. That takes you to the contact page.
- 2) Instead of going to the website, use this email address: [AAUWVAcontactus@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWVAcontactus@gmail.com). Identify the board member you want to contact. You will receive a response quickly.
- 3) State Co-Presidents emailed a 2020-21 State Board Roster to all Branch Presidents that includes individual contact information.

### Here's how to contact branch leaders:

Visit individual branch websites or branch pages on the state website.

Branch websites are all different and contact information may be found in several places:

- On the Menu Bar: "Contact Us" or "About Us"
- On the Side Bar
- At the bottom of the Homepage

To reach branch websites and branch pages from the state website homepage, (<https://aauw-va.net>) on the menu bar go to "Branches," then "Virginia Branches & Leaders." Clicking on the branch name, will take you to the branch website or branch page.

To bypass the homepage, the direct link to Branches and Leaders is <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/branches/>

**Let us hear from you!**



# Calendar of Events 2020-2021

**Text Colors**

**Black – National Awareness**

**Green – AAUW of VA Events/Virginia Awareness**

**Red – AAUW of VA Administrative Deadlines**

**Blue – National AAUW Administrative Deadlines**

Month/Date	Event	Attendees	Points of Contact
October 15	<b>Deadline for receipt of Public Policy mini-grant applications</b>	Branches	Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents
October 15	Last deadline to file IRS Form 990-N in Member Services Database (MSD) for 2019 year		Branch Vice Presidents for Finance
October 17	Northern District Meeting	Northern District members	Northern District Co-Representatives
October 17	Southwest District Meeting	Southwest District members	Southwest District Representative
October 23	Deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail in November General Election.		
October 24	Southeast District Meeting	Southeast District members	Southeast District Representative
October 29	Latina Women's Equal Pay Day		
October 31	Deadline to vote absentee in person is 5 p.m.		
November 3	General Election – VOTE Deadline to vote in person is 7 p.m. Deadline to vote absentee by mail requires ballot postmark on or before November 3, which must be received by local registrars by noon on November 6.		
Mid-November	<b>Notification of mini-grant selectees</b>		Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents
November 28	AAUW Anniversary		
December 1	<b>Deadline for receipt of proposed bylaws amendments and resolutions</b>	AAUW of VA members	State Bylaws/ Resolution Chair
December 31	Deadline for receipt at National AAUW of branch AAUW Funds contributions by credit card; checks should be submitted by December 17		State and Branch Funds Chairs

Month/Date	Event	Attendees	Points of Contact
January 1, 2021	Submit nominations and bylaws/resolutions to the Voting & Elections Chair		Nominating Committee Bylaws/Resolution Chair
January 9	Vision articles from Board and Branches and Voter Guide		Vision Copy Editor
January 13	VA General Assembly convenes		
January TBD	State Lobby Day – Richmond	AAUW of VA members	State Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents
February 9	Additional nominees for state officers can be submitted until March 11		
February TBD	Deadline for Receipt of Branch Named Gift Honoree Designations	Branches	State AAUW Funds Chair
February TBD	Deadline for Conference Program Book: Board reports, State Voter Guide, and ads	State Board, Branches	State Conference Committee
February TBD	State Lobby Day – Richmond	AAUW of VA members	Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents
February TBD	VA General Assembly adjourns		
TBD	Asian-American Women’s Equal Pay Day		
March 1 – 30	Members verify email to MSD is correct	AAUW of VA members	Voting & Elections Chair
March 8	International Women’s Day		
March 11	Deadline for additional nominees for state officers	Branch Members	Nominating Committee-Chair
March 12-14	State Conference	AAUW of VA members	Program Vice President, Northern District
TBD	Equal Pay Day		Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents
April 12	AAUW of VA election voting begins	AAUW of VA members	Voting & Elections Chair
April 15 (approx.)	Date to file IRS Form 990N in MSD opens		Branch Vice Presidents for Finance
May 3	AAUW of VA election voting ends at 11:45 p.m.	AAUW of VA members	Voting & Elections Chair
May 15	AAUW of Virginia Voting results reported		Voting & Elections Chair
May 15	Deadline for Vision articles		Vision Copy Editor
June 1	Roster of Branch officers due to State Co-Presidents		2020-2021 Branch Presidents
June 30	Deadline to submit 2021-2022 officers to MSD		2020-2021 Branch Presidents
TBD	Mom’s Equal Pay Day		

**Vision** (ISSN 0897-2257) is published three times a year by the American Association of University Women of Virginia.

All mailing lists are prepared at AAUW headquarters. Please send changes or corrections directly to:

AAUW Records Office  
1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005  
[connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)

## CONTACTS

### AAUW National Office:

- 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005
- [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)
- [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)
- 800/326-AAUW (2289)  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 202/785-7700  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Fax: 202/872-1425
- TDD: 202/785-7777

### AAUW of Virginia:

- [aauw-va.aauw.net](http://aauw-va.aauw.net)

### Virginia General Assembly:

- [viriniagenarassembly.gov](http://viriniagenarassembly.gov)



WHEN WOMEN VOTE,  
WE CHANGE THE CONVERSATION.

