



Conference Schedule and Registration Information

Please join us virtually for the annual AAUW of Virginia State Conference, which also includes our 96th Annual Business Meeting. In addition to conducting important business of our organization, over the course of three days, you'll hear from and be able to question an exciting variety of speakers on the AAUW mission-related topics described below.

On Saturday, March 13, there will be morning and afternoon sessions, while on Sunday, March 14, and Monday, March 15, there will only be afternoon programs.

The conference and business meeting are free, but **please register in advance for each day you want to attend by using the registration links below.** You will be sent Zoom links for each day. Even though there will be two sessions on March 13, there will only be one Zoom link for that day.

Contact us at AAUWofVA@gmail.com if you have any questions or problems with the registration links.

Day 1: Saturday, March 13

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

[REGISTER NOW FOR DAY 1](#)



Women Make the Difference! The 2020 AAUW of Virginia Woman of Achievement Awardees

Biennially, AAUW-VA presents our prestigious Woman of Achievement Award to Virginia women who have made outstanding educational, civic, and cultural contributions; demonstrated excellent leadership skills; and contributed to the advancement of women with a positive impact in our state and/or nation. We selected two outstanding awardees in 2020, but the covid pandemic prevented us from honoring them last year.

Join us in honoring our 2020 Woman of Achievement Awardees: **State Senator Janet Howell** and **Scientist Ana Humphrey**:

- As the second in seniority in the Virginia Senate, **Senator Howell** is one of Virginia's most influential state senators. She has been representing parts of Fairfax and Arlington Counties since 1992. She is credited with major legal reforms, and her legislative priorities have focused on education, children and families, and equal rights for women.
- **Ana Humphrey** is a scientist who has won multiple national, international, and state awards for her research, and who mentors young students in STEM. In 2019, she was the first-place winner surpassing more than 2,000 student entries in the prestigious Regeneron (formerly the Westinghouse) Science Talent Search. Ms. Humphrey is currently a sophomore majoring in astrophysics at Harvard College.



Keynote Address: Women Make a Difference! in U.S. Elections: Assessing Gender and Intersectional Dynamics in Election 2020 and Beyond

2020 was a record-breaking year for women in American politics from the presidential level down. However, understanding the success and influence of women in elections and representation requires attention to diversity *among* women, including along lines of race/ethnicity and party. **Dr. Kelly Dittmar, PhD**, Associate Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University–Camden, and Director of Research and Scholar at the renowned Center for American Women and Politics at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, will assess the gender and intersectional dynamics in election 2020, with particular attention to women candidates, voters, and activists, and discuss what election outcomes reveal and mean for women's representation and policymaking in 2021 and beyond.



What Difference! Does Poverty Make in the Lives of Women?

Economic security, *i.e.*, ensuring livelihoods for women, is one of the focal areas in the AAUW Strategic Plan. It plays a prominent role in our research, advocacy, and program planning. No discussion of economic security is complete without considering poverty and what difference it makes in the lives of women.

Poverty is indeed a complex and thought-provoking term. For women, it entails more than just a lack of income and resources. It impedes their ability to make decisions regarding every aspect of their lives. In this session, we will hear from two experts: **Dr. Diane Hodge, PhD**, Director of the School of Social Work in Radford University's Waldron College of Health and Human Services; and **Susheela Varky, Esq.**, Director of the Center for Family Advocacy and Legal Assistance for Victim-Immigrants of Domestic Abuse (LA VIDA) at the Virginia Poverty Law Center. They'll discuss poverty's impact on our society, especially on women.



AAUW of Virginia Women Make the Difference!

Kim Churches, AAUW's chief executive officer since 2017, joins us for a special presentation to recognize AAUW of Virginia as the very first state to achieve all five stars in the AAUW Five-Star National Recognition Program. She will present an overview of what AAUW national has been working on and achieved, an update on national priorities for 2021, and a description of what is next on the gender agenda, and then entertain questions from the audience.

Thanks to our state board and members for the collective hard work that resulted in this recognition.



AAUW of Virginia Annual Business Meeting

Please join us at our 96th Annual Business Meeting so that we can conduct important business of our organization, including hearing the financial report, considering a bylaws amendment, and meeting the candidates for AAUW-VA officer positions. You'll be on hand as we unveil AAUW of Virginia's first State Named Honorees. And, if it is your lucky day, you may even win a door prize!

Day 2: Sunday, March 14

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

REGISTER NOW FOR DAY 2



Women Make A Difference! in Military Service to Our Country

Women have been making a difference in military service as far back as the Revolutionary War when a number of women disguised themselves as men and fought in the Continental Army. Women did the same thing during the Civil War for both the Union and Confederate armies. During World War I, women served as U.S. Army nurses at military hospitals in the United States and overseas. In World War II, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was established, and the Navy Women's Reserve Act created the WAVES. Fast forward: According to the Council on Foreign Relations, "when the draft ended in 1973, women represented just 2 percent of the enlisted forces and 8 percent of the officer corps. Today, those numbers are 16 percent and 19 percent, respectively..."

To help us learn about the history of women in military service to our country, there is no one better than **Lieutenant Colonel Marilla Cushman, USA, Retired**. After almost 25 years of active duty in the U.S. Army, in 1997 she went to work for the Military Women's Memorial Foundation, where she is now vice president of development.



Equity in Education Makes the Difference!

"...high-quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to improving economic prosperity and gender equality." (2019-2021 AAUW Public Policy Priorities)

It is not news to any AAUW member how integral equity in education is to our mission and our Public Policy Priorities. **Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., EdD**, Superintendent of the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), will join us to talk about the courageous and bold equity work being done by ACPS. Tasked with a mission to ensure that every student succeeds, the ACPS serves 15,000 plus students who hail from more than 145 countries and speak 132 languages.



Women Make the Difference! As Elected Officials in Virginia

Each successive election more and more women have been elected to serve at various levels of government in Virginia. Hear what our three panelists have to say about what motivated them to seek elective office, challenges they have faced as women elected officials, what unique skills women bring to governing, their personal successes, what lessons they have learned, and advice for those following in their footsteps, plus more.

- **State Senator Jen Kiggans**, a former Navy helicopter pilot and the first female military veteran to serve in the Virginia General Assembly, was elected in 2019 to represent Virginia's 7th Senate District, which covers parts of Norfolk and Virginia Beach. She was one of those voting aye for ratification of the ERA in 2020. Senator Kiggans also works as an adult geriatric nurse practitioner.
- **Chair Phyllis J. Randall**, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair-at-Large, is the first person of color in Virginia's history to be elected chair of a county board. By profession, Chair Randall is a mental health therapist, working with substance abuse offenders in an incarcerated setting.
- **Mayor Deanna Reed** of Harrisonburg was first elected to the Harrisonburg City Council in 2016 and was recently selected by her fellow council members for her third consecutive term as mayor. She is the first African American female mayor in Harrisonburg's history and also works as the Director of Community and School Partnerships at the On the Road Collaborative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to closing the learning gap and empowering youth.

Day 3: Monday, March 15

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

[REGISTER NOW FOR DAY 3](#)



Alexandria's Social Justice Initiatives

Anyone who has visited Alexandria undoubtedly has spent time in Old Town enjoying the historical sights, quaint shops, and the amazing restaurants. However, "a horrific part of Alexandria's history is that, prior to America's Civil War, Alexandria served as one of the largest domestic slave trading ports in America. Most of Alexandria's leading businesses and properties could not have operated without the unpaid labor of the enslaved men, women, and children who lived and worked here."

This session, presented by **Audrey Davis**, the renowned Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, explores some of Alexandria's social justice initiatives. Learn about the city's partnership with the Equal Justice Institute in Montgomery, Alabama, "to memorialize documented victims of racial violence throughout history and foster meaningful dialogue about race and justice today." The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project is "dedicated to helping Alexandria understand its history of racial terror hate crimes and to work toward creating a welcoming community bound by equity and inclusion." Also, find out about new social justice initiatives during the pandemic, including *The Legacy of George Floyd: Documenting Alexandria's Response*.



What a Difference! A Virtual Trip to the Booker T. Washington National Monument Makes

Nestled in the Smith Mountain Lake region in Franklin County, Virginia, is one of our country's treasures, the National Park Service's Booker T. Washington National Monument. Accompany us on a virtual trip to the birthplace of Dr. Washington, who was born a plantation slave in 1856 and gained freedom when he was 9 years old. He went on to become a renowned orator, author, educator, advisor to U.S. Presidents, and founder of the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama.

Join us for a presentation about the park, the man, and his legacy by **Park Ranger Brittany Webb-Lane**. Ms. Webb-Lane, who became the park's newest ranger in 2018, was born and raised in Rocky Mount, Virginia, in Franklin County, not many miles from the park. She is one of the small percentage of national park rangers who are minorities, and the even smaller percentage who are women of color.



Gender-Based Violence, Institutional Betrayal and the Carceral State

Once again, **Dr. Angela J. Hattery, PhD**, Professor of Women & Gender Studies and Co-Director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence at the University of Delaware; and **Dr. Earl Smith, PhD**, Emeritus Professor of American Ethnic Studies and Sociology at Wake Forest University, who teaches classes in sociology, African and African-American studies, and women gender studies at George Mason University and the University of Delaware, will help us better understand the complexities of a horrendous societal problem.

In this session, they will explore the ways in which gender-based violence is much more than violence perpetrated by one individual on another; and the ways in which institutions, including college campuses and the military, reinforce and amplify this violence through a series of policies and practices that produces experiences of institutional betrayal for victims/survivors. Finally, Drs. Hattery and Smith will consider the ways in which mass incarceration, which ensnares millions of Black men in the criminal legal system, exposes their partners to state surveillance and violence.