

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

Woman of Achievement Award.....1
 Co-Presidents' Message.....2
 Mary Zickefoose Tribute4
 Public Policy.....5
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.....5
 State Mini-Grants6
 Blue Ridge Sunrise.....6
 State Named Honorees.....7
 AAUW Funds.....8
 IRS Instructions.....8
 Voting Results.....9
 New Board Position.....10
 5-Star Program Awards.....10
 Barbara Woodlee Tribute.....11
 Branches in Action.....12-16
 In Memoriam16
 Legacy Circle.....Back Cover

A Publication of
AAUW of Virginia
Vol. 98 No. 3

**2022 Woman of Achievement Award
Presented to Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn**

One highlight of our state conferences has always been our presentation of the **AAUW of Virginia biennial Woman of Achievement Award**. The award honors the best of the best--women who have made a difference. These women have stood on the shoulders of those before them and then made outstanding educational, civic, and cultural contributions of their own; demonstrated excellent leadership skills; and contributed to the advancement of women with a positive impact in our state. They have become the shoulders for other women to stand on.



Virginia Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn was recognized on April 30, 2022, as our 2022 Woman of Achievement awardee. The award presentation headlined Part 2 of our 2022 State Conference, the virtual Annual Business Meeting.

Co-President Leslie Tourigny explained why **Delegate Filler-Corn** was selected to receive our prestigious award:

“The Virginia State Legislature dates to 1619 and is considered the oldest continuous law-making body in the Western Hemisphere.

“In 1776, when it became the Virginia General Assembly, Edmund Pendleton of Caroline County became the first speaker. Fifty-four other speakers followed Speaker Pendleton who shared one notable trait with him--they were all men!

“On January 8, 2020, **Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn** was sworn in as the 56th Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, becoming the first woman and first Jewish person to lead the House of Delegates in its then 400-year history.

“In 2010, **Delegate Filler-Corn** was first elected to the Virginia House to represent the 41st District, which includes parts of Fairfax, Fairfax Station, and West Springfield. When she became speaker only a decade later, she achieved another historic first: she had served the shortest amount of time as delegate before becoming speaker compared with any previous speaker.

(Continued on page 4)

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
Sherry Warren

[https://aauw-va.aauw.net/
contact-us/](https://aauw-va.aauw.net/contact-us/)

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

VIRGINIA VISION

Copy Editor:
Mary Anne Graham

Layout Editor:
Bianca Daugherty



On July 1, 2020, we teamed up for a two-year term as co-presidents of AAUW-VA. **Leslie** had already served one term when **Suzanne** joined her. Back in the fall of 2019, when we decided to run for election as co-presidents, we — along with the rest of the world — had no idea what we were in for beginning five months later. **Governor Ralph Northam** declared an emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia because of covid-19 just three and a half months before we took office as a team. **George Floyd, Jr.** was murdered in Minneapolis — a heinous act of racial injustice — 37 days before we took office. Those were dark days that left us deeply concerned about the future of the world, our country, and AAUW.

Here we are, over two years later, and proud of how AAUW-VA has fared as an organization. Thank you for placing your trust in us to lead. We are honored to have worked with the extraordinarily talented, resourceful, and determined members of the state board, as well as members in our 24 branches throughout the Commonwealth. Together, we learned a lot, accomplished a lot, and not only survived but also thrived because of the special efforts of our state members to overcome the challenges of the times.

As we reflect on the last two years, here are some of the accomplishments that stand out:

- In 2020-2021, **AAUW of Virginia was the first state to achieve all five stars in AAUW's Five-Star National Recognition Program**; four branches also achieved five stars. Eight branches received from one to four stars. All totaled, the state and branches earned a total of 46 stars. Kudos to the Virginia Beach Branch for becoming the first five-star-winning Virginia branch for 2021-2022. More kudos to the Reston-Herndon Area and McLean Area Branches who also earned five stars.
- We embraced **Zoom** as a communication medium, and in doing so, were able to continue state and branch activities during the height of the pandemic -- and beyond. Our first venture was a **virtual annual business meeting in 2020** (converted from an in-person event in only three weeks). This was followed several months later by a **virtual summer leadership meeting**, and in 2021, by a **three-day virtual conference**, including the **annual business meeting**. This experience has resulted in a new normal going forward—a hybrid model which features in-person events when the

(Continued on page 3)

District Representatives

Northern	Northwest	Southeast	Southwest
Sara Anderson Sandy Lawrence	Sylvia Rogers	Tammie Mullins- Rice	Anita Aymer

(Continued from page 2)

situation permits and uses technology to bring us closer together when we are far apart. Our **2022 state conference** was held in two parts. **Part 1 was in-person in Harrisonburg, and Part 2 was a virtual annual business meeting.** Zoom also allowed members to attend wonderful programs presented by our state board, district representatives, and many branches without venturing outside of their homes—or changing out of pajamas. Thus, through Zoom, we and our sister state board members have had more opportunities to speak to and meet members from around the state than we did before the pandemic.

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)** have become an integral part of all we do as AAUW-VA. **Cyndi Shanahan** is finishing her term as DEI chair, building a solid foundation as we go forward. She established a committee of branch representatives, assumed a *de facto* DEI leadership role among AAUW state affiliates, and was selected as a member of the AAUW Inclusion and Equity Committee. Our membership amended our bylaws to elevate the DEI position from a chair to a vice president on the state board and elected the first AAUW-VA co-vice presidents for DEI (see page 9).
- AAUW-VA is in its third year of a successful relationship with the **Frank Batten School for Leadership and Public Policy** at the University of Virginia. Board member **Sylvia Rogers** has enabled the success of this project by mentoring one graduate student per year who focuses her capstone research project, required for earning a Master of Public Policy degree, on a topic of importance to AAUW.
- AAUW-VA presented our prestigious, biennial **Woman of Achievement** awards in 2020 to Virginia Senator **Janet Howell** and scientist **Ana Luisa Tio Humphrey** and in 2022 to Virginia Delegate

Eileen Filler-Corn, the state's first woman Speaker of the House of Delegates in its over 400-year history.

- For every \$500 AAUW-VA donated to AAUW Funds during 2020 and 2021, we were able to recognize one member as a **State Named Honoree**—an individual who furthered the AAUW mission in the state beyond just her branch or community. On behalf of AAUW-VA, **AAUW Funds Chair Caroline Pickens** presented awards for 2020 to **Marion Stillson** (Reston-Herndon Area); **Patricia (Trish) Wallace** (Greater Richmond); and **Neola Waller** (Virginia Beach). For 2021 the honorees were **Nancy Joyner** (Springfield-Annandale); **Caroline Martin** (Suffolk); **Jane Newell** (Greater Richmond); and **Kitty Richardson** (Falls Church Area), in memoriam.
- Even though the pandemic disrupted learning at colleges and universities, **AAUW-VA College/University Chair Barbara Woodlee**, former president of Kennebec Valley Community College (see page 11), established a committee of branch representatives, initiated the development of a state brochure for membership, and reestablished AAUW relationships with several colleges and universities.
- Even with the pandemic curtailing in-person contacts with elected officials and other advocacy efforts, **Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy Denise Murden and Susan Burk** advanced our efforts to a new zenith by creatively and extensively using virtual meetings, collaborations, coalitions, and preparation and distribution of detailed reports and fact-sheets on legislation and our public policy priorities.

Once again, thank you for the honor of serving as your AAUW-VA co-presidents. We are excited to welcome all new officers to the board (see pages 9-10) and extend our appreciation to outgoing board members for their service to the women, girls, and their families of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

*Suzanne Rothwell and Leslie Tourigny
Co-Presidents*



Congratulations!

AAUW of Virginia board members

congratulate

Leslie and Suzanne

on a job well done! What an awesome team!

(Continued from page 1) Woman of Achievement Award

“Madam Speaker’s legacy reflects an admirable record of accomplishment of policies and laws championing many of AAUW’s public policy priorities. This is even more laudable given the fact that two months after she became speaker every aspect of our lives was upended by the pandemic.

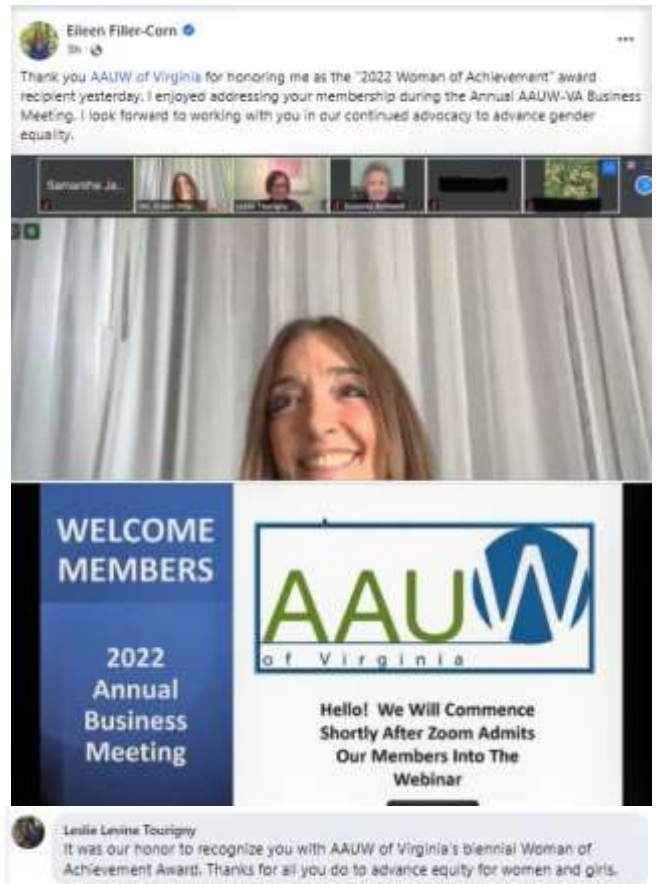
“Here is just a small sampling of accomplishments:

- She selected a leadership team of committee chairs that reflected racial, gender, and geographic diversity.
- Virginia ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; passed a Virginia version of the Voting Rights Act; instituted no-excuse-required early voting; carved offensive language out of the state legal code; overhauled the criminal justice system to reduce disproportionate impact on minorities; incrementally raised the minimum wage; passed a pay transparency law prohibiting employers from retaliating against employees who discuss their salary with other employees; established a STEM Education Advisory Board; and provided paid sick leave to home health workers.

“**Delegate Filler-Corn’s** dedication to public service began before her election to the Virginia House of Delegates. She was an original organizer of the Million Mom March; served as director of inter-governmental affairs for Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine when each was governor of Virginia; and is a graduate of Ithaca College with a BA in

Politics and the American University Washington College of Law with a Juris Doctor degree.”

Following the award presentation, **Delegate Filler-Corn** expressed how honored she was to receive our award, discussed her career of public service, and answered some questions posed by members. Later, she posted her further gratitude on Facebook:



*Leslie Tourigny
Co-President*

Mary Lou Zickefoose – 75-Year AAUW Member!



Mary Lou Zickefoose has been a 75-year member of AAUW and is currently a Winchester Branch member. Branch Membership VP **Sherry Lloyd** learned from interviewing her recently that she joined AAUW in 1946 after graduating from West Virginia Wesleyan College and teaching in Buckhannon, WV. When she joined, AAUW’s focus was on local affairs rather than the status of world affairs as it is today because of improved communications and better technology. A meeting on the musical, “Showboat,” was held on **Senator Harry Byrd’s** lawn with records for music and pictures of the boat and the performers. **Mary Lou** urges branch members to attend meetings and become friends with members.

Virginia also includes several 60-year members. **Kudos to you as well as Mary Lou!**

*Mary Anne Graham
Vision Copy Editor*

While the divided 2022 General Assembly, with Republicans in control of the House and Democrats of the Senate, presented challenges in advancing AAUW's legislative agenda, we, with our coalition friends, were successful in making our voices heard. Paid sick days and pay equity legislation did not advance; but both the House and Senate voted to make paid family and medical leave a class of private insurance (SB15/HB1156), a step towards furthering understanding of the need for this economic support for all. Unfortunately, legislation to establish a Virginia constitutional amendment on voting rights did not pass in the House, which restarts the amendment process. AAUW-VA was successful in its vocal opposition to Governor Youngkin's advocacy for a legislative push to divert education funding to vouchers, educational savings accounts, tax credits, and charter schools. Our op-ed that emphasized AAUW-VA's long-standing support for adequate and equitable public-school funding appeared in the February 20, 2022, issues of *The Virginian-Pilot* and *Daily Press*. At press time, public school funding is still being decided, but we do know that all legislative efforts to divert it were defeated. Thanks to our members who showed up for our Zoom meetings and made their voices heard through emails



Public Policy

and phone calls to their state and federal legislators on these and other issues.

We are now looking ahead to the important mid-term elections on November 8, when voters in Virginia's new U.S. Congressional Districts elect their federal representatives. Now is the time to find out whether your District has changed by typing in your address at <https://www.vpap.org/redistricting/>. You can also see what changes are in store for the Virginia Senate and House elections in 2023. On October 1, legislation passed in 2020 will go into effect that allows same-day voter registration up to and including Election Day. That's one less excuse not to exercise your right to vote. We will begin our Get-Out-the Vote postcard efforts in early summer, so branches are encouraged to plan for how they will participate and set a goal for how many they will write. Most importantly, make sure your registration is up to date. Begin encouraging your family, friends, and acquaintances to register to vote and get familiar with the candidates. Equity for women and girls depends on our votes!

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

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Did you enjoy the presentations at the 2022 state conference that focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion as much as I did? What dynamic speakers we had on this critical subject!

I am confident that our branches are making strides to better understand the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion. My confidence stems from the wonderful online meetings that members have been invited to, as well as discussions I have had with many of you. I have appreciated hearing your thoughts on the importance of our work in this area of study, and how much you want to, and are taking, action.

I look forward to seeing how many Virginia branches are meeting the DEI objectives represented in the Five-Star program this year. Based on the programming and plans implemented by each branch I feel sure that many

branches will qualify for these program components.

Please remember how important it is to encourage those groups who are marginalized through our voting process to vote in these important upcoming elections.

There are many ways that you can do that, including discussions with your community members and sending postcards with encouragement.

I hope you are proud of the work that AAUW of Virginia is doing within the DEI program. This work results in our continued ability to sew the fabric of our community into a closer and more empathetic place to be.

*Cyndi Shanahan
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair*

AAUW-VA Mini-Grants – 2022-23

AAUW-VA's Mini-Grant program supports both innovative and tried-and-true projects aligned with our public policy priorities throughout the Commonwealth. This past year seven branches received mini-grant awards for a variety of activities. (These projects were described in the Winter-Spring 2022 *Vision*.) **The state board has approved \$2,000 for public policy mini-grants again for 2022-23.** Branches interested in applying for a public policy mini-grant must complete and apply online, <https://aauw-va.aauw.net>. Click on "Mini-Grants." If multiple branches are collaborating on an activity, only one application needs to be submitted. **Applications will be due no later than September 15, 2022**, so that decisions on mini-grant awards can be announced by the end of September and you can get started with your projects. Innovative, creative projects will be given preferential consideration. **Congratulations to Alexandria, Reston-Herndon Area, Smith Mountain, Springfield-Annandale, Woodbridge and Greater Manassas, and Wytheville for submitting exciting and impactful project proposals for 2021-22.**

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

It's in the Cards!

Heddie Sumner's "Blue Ridge Sunrise" photo was chosen as a winner this year for the AAUW notecards. She has been a loyal member of AAUW for almost 40 years! She is a University of Virginia graduate in nursing and has had a productive and successful career as a registered nurse. She entered the University of Virginia in the fall of 1971, only the second year that UVA allowed women to enroll. She graduated in 1975. Heddie relocated to Michigan with her husband in 1977 and raised three children. She joined AAUW where she served in numerous leadership capacities. Her career spanned several decades during which time she worked with a non-profit, Senior Services, where she was the Director of Education and Resource Development. Her focus was on successful aging, but also dementia care and caregivers, and she ran a student co-op program providing education in senior care, aging, and dementia. In her retirement, she is still doing webinars on dementia. Heddie moved to Roanoke Valley in 2012 for retirement and has been an active member of the Roanoke Valley Branch, serving as membership chair and president. She has been actively contacting local colleges to promote the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).



Her photography interests started in her middle school years, and she has been known to carry her camera wherever she goes. The "Blue Ridge Sunrise" photo was taken from her front porch. What a lovely way to start the day!

*Anita Aymer
Southwest District Representative*

SAVE THIS DATE!!!

Join AAUW of Virginia districts for a virtual all-district meeting on
October 22, 10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.,
featuring AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell.

Congratulations to Our 2022 AAUW of Virginia State Named Honorees

In 2020, your state board created a special honor for those in Virginia whose actions have had a broad impact on furthering AAUW of Virginia's mission and priorities in Virginia and who provided exceptional service to the state beyond the branch or local community. The committee sought nominations from branches and past and current state board members.

From the nominations received, four outstanding recipients were selected as the 2022 State Named Honorees. The names were kept secret and were revealed at the 2022 state conference and honored also at the annual business meeting. The 2022 State Named Honorees are Nancy Joyner, Caroline Martin, Jane Newell, and Kitty Richardson (in memoriam).

Nancy Joyner (Springfield-Annandale Branch) has served AAUW at the branch, state, and national levels in many distinct positions. At the national level, she was appointed in 1973 to the AAUW Program Development Committee, followed by Area Representative for International Relations. In 1977, she was elected to the national AAUW Board of Directors as first vice president and became heavily involved in the effort to ratify the ERA amendment. An important achievement was recognizing, along with two other national board members, that AAUW needed to provide financial support to women at universities who were fighting in court against discrimination in academic positions and promotions. Their efforts resulted in the creation in 1981 of the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). In Virginia, Nancy served as state president from 2004 to 2008 and later Northern District co-representative.

Caroline Martin (Suffolk Branch) is honored for her commitment and time to STEM education in Virginia, working first to establish a STEAM academy (science, technology, engineering, and applied mathematics). With strong bipartisan support from the General Assembly, in 2010, Caroline and a friend established a STEAM Academy for 9th-12th graders throughout Virginia. When plans for the building fell through, Caroline and her team were not deterred. In 2012, they organized free summer camps. By 2016, about 450 6th-8th graders were coming to camp, supported by corporate grants and \$400,000 in grants from the General Assembly. Caroline's far-sightedness of the importance of STEM education laid the groundwork for the Governor's STEM Academies and Virginia's STEM Education Committee.

Jane Newell (Greater Richmond Branch) is honored for the contribution of her time and financial expertise that was so important to the success of the ERA campaign in Virginia. As treasurer for VARatifyERA, the premier coalition working to get ERA ratified in Virginia, Jane provided expert, meticulous financial records. For two years her work covered donations, sales, expenses, funding of postcards, receptions, a state bus tour to campuses, and even an ice cream truck "I Scream for Equality." Jane also served on the steering committee, representing AAUW of Virginia to the many other organizations making up the coalition. AAUW of Virginia benefitted earlier from Jane's expertise when AAUW changed to One Member/One Vote in 2011. Jane stepped up to create and supervise the system for the first two years.

Kitty Richardson (in memoriam) (Falls Church Area Branch) Very few members have been as committed to AAUW's ideals, priorities, and women's rights as Kitty. She was a regular participant in state Lobby Day and a past state board public policy chair. She is remembered most, though, for her strong commitment of time and effort to women's health and reproductive rights, women's economic security, equal pay, voting rights, ERA, and Title IX. Kitty was part of the leadership team for AAUW's Lobby Corps, meeting every Thursday Congress was in session. She lobbied, trained new Lobby Corps members, and led. She was also a driving force in George Mason University becoming an AAUW College/University Partner and often attended events there like Equal Pay Day so she could talk with students about AAUW. Whenever and wherever she could, Kitty gave herself to AAUW. She left us too early, but her legacy of activism for AAUW's priorities lives on.

State Named Honorees Committee (Caroline Pickens, chair, state AAUW Funds chair; Leslie Tourigny, state co-president; Sherry Warren, state board secretary; Deborah Dodd, Springfield-Annandale Branch; and Laura Wimmer, Greater Richmond Branch)

Success Despite It All!

2021 was not a wonderful year again to be raising money for AAUW Funds, but despite it, branches did come through and contributed **\$67,972.23**. A huge thank you to all of you!

There was even a silver lining. Seven branches contributed more in 2021 than 2020, so kudos to **Arlington, Greater Manassas, Greater Richmond, Hampton, McLean Area, Newport News, and Roanoke Valley**. Nine branches and their members contributed **100%** to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund, and another eight branches contributed more than 90%. That is 17 of Virginia's 24 branches, which is terrific support for the Fund that is most helpful for AAUW.

The Top 10 Branches in contributions were **McLean Area** (\$16,121), **Roanoke Valley** (\$5,209), **Arlington** (\$4,853), **Mt. Vernon** (\$4,031), **Vienna Area** (\$3,942), **Greater Richmond** (\$3,938), **Virginia Beach** (\$3,230), **Springfield-Annandale** (\$3,051), **Reston-Herndon Area** (\$2,831), and **Falls Church Area** (\$2,554).

The covid-19 virus is continuing to impact fundraisers for 2022, but we can continue the successful fundraising we did last year and surpass it. Branches and members are clever, imaginative, and determined enough to upscale current fundraisers or create alternative ones to support AAUW Funds and girls' and women's education and equity. Keep up the fundraising, everyone—and let's see if we can surpass that \$67,972.23 in 2022!

*Caroline Pickens
AAUW Funds Chair*

Instructions to Submit IRS Form 990-N Information to AAUW



All branches are required to submit **IRS Form 990-N** information to AAUW through the Community Hub by October 15, 2022. Branches that have gross receipts of \$50,000 or more are also required to submit **Form 990-N** directly to the IRS by November 15, 2022. To submit the Form 990-N information through AAUW's Community Hub, the branch president or vice president for finance or membership should:

• Login to your SNAPSHOT > go to the MY AFFILIATIONS tab on the left > click the blue button next to your branch name > choose TAX INFORMATION > choose ADD NEW TAX DETAILS. This will open the AAUW form for submission of branch information.

Answer three questions:

- (1) Are Gross Receipts less than \$50k?
- (2) Do you want AAUW to file your 990-N?
- (3) Has the business been terminated?

• Add the branch website link.

• Enter the name and address of a branch officer who lives in Virginia and, if possible, in the town or city that is consistent with the branch name.

Click NEXT to see a message that the information has been saved. Click FINISH, which will display a copy of your submission. You should print the page and save it to your computer as a pdf.

Failure of a branch to timely file a **Form 990-N** with the IRS in any year will result in an inquiry by the IRS, with the opportunity to submit the delinquent filing. Failure to file **Form 990-N** for three consecutive years will result in the branch losing its IRS non-profit exemption, although the branch can apply for reinstatement.

Thank you for completing this necessary annual submission to AAUW.

*Suzanne Rothwell
Co-President*

The Results Are In!

AAUW of Virginia's One Member/One Vote State Election

Thank you to the 237 AAUW-VA members who voted in the recent **One Member/One Vote State Election**; that is a voting rate of 24%, which exceeds the 7% quorum we needed for the election.

Each candidate was elected with 98% or more of the vote. The AAUW of Virginia 2022-24 officers for the following positions are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • President | Lane Stone |
| • Vice President for Communications | Dianne Mero |
| • Vice President for Program | Nadine James |
| • Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy | Janine Greenwood and
Denise Murden |
| • Co-Vice Presidents for Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion | Krysta Jones and
Meg Tuccillo |

Congratulations and thank you to these members!! We look forward to working with you in 2022-24.

Additionally, both the proposed Bylaws Amendment and the proposed 2022-2024 Public Policy Priorities passed with 96% of the vote.

*Sandy Lawrence
Voting and Elections Chair*

AAUW National Voting Results

Election of Directors

Peggy Cabaniss, Cheryl Sorokin, Dale Satake, and Mary Zupanc have been elected to serve on the AAUW National Board of Directors.

Bylaws Amendments

- 97.37% of the membership approved deleting the requirement that the Nominating Committee notify members of open positions and request nominations eight months before the date of the election.
- 97.81% of the membership approved amendments to ballot administration to establish a voting eligibility date that is 60 days before the AAUW annual meeting and require notice of the annual meeting to be sent to members at least 30 days before the annual meeting date. In addition, a new provision was added to clarify that if an adjournment date is announced at an annual or special meeting that is within 120 days of the meeting, notice need not be sent to the membership.

*Suzanne Rothwell
Co-President*

New State Board Appointed Administrator



On January 11, 2022, the AAUW-VA Board of Directors approved creation of the new position of Administrator to work with the president in carrying out certain duties assigned to the president. On January 26, 2022, the State Board voted unanimously to appoint Sarita McCoy Gregory of the Hampton Branch as the first AAUW-VA Administrator, effective July 1, 2022. As you can see from reading her bio below, Sarita brings to the board a background of accomplishment. We are excited to welcome Sarita to the board.

Sarita McCoy Gregory, Ph.D. joined AAUW in 2019, after relocating to the Hampton Roads area. She currently serves as the public policy chair and webmaster of the Hampton Branch. As public policy chair, Sarita has coordinated several events with the branch program vice president, including a *Promoting Equity Virtual Conversation* series, featuring Jennifer Carroll Foy, Eola Dance, and a book discussion of Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste* with Hampton Branch member Dr. Margaret Bristow.

Sarita has taught at highly selective liberal arts colleges, a large state university, and served as chair of the Department of Political Science and History at an elite Historically Black College and University (HBCU). In addition, she has written *Experience HBCU!: What Every High School Counselor Should Know About HBCUs*. Also, she is a Senior Advisor creating a Summer Institute for HBCU students at the Georgetown University Center for Security Studies.

Sarita is very active in the Hampton Roads community. She has given a keynote address for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Voting Rights Forum. She serves on two boards, Giving Black Philanthropy with the Hampton Roads Community Foundation and Smart Beginnings Virginia Peninsula.

Sarita is trained as a political scientist. She is a graduate of Tuskegee University and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She was a post-doctoral fellow at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Sarita lives in the Hampton Roads area with her husband, Darryl, three children, and fur baby, Nani.



Three Virginia Branches Awarded Five Stars!

A five-star salute and congratulations to our **Virginia Beach Branch** for being the state's first branch to be awarded five stars in the 2021-2022 AAUW Five-Star National Recognition Program. More salutes and congratulations to the **Reston-Herndon Area Branch** and **McLean Area Branch** for also being awarded five stars. I am glad to again see Virginia branches receive national recognition for their activities.

As before, there are five areas of focus: advancement, public policy and research, governance and sustainability, programs, and communications/external relations. Some criteria are different and easier to meet than in the prior program. There is still time to make your branch application by June 30. For more information, go to [Five Star](#).

Suzanne Rothwell
Co-President

What's in a Name?



Shakespeare may have asked the question, but we now have an answer. Congratulations to Dr. Barbara Woodlee, AAUW of Virginia College/University Chair, and incoming Virginia Beach Branch co-president.

On April 25, 2022, Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC), where Barbara served as president from 1984 to 2012, dedicated a building in her honor. Although the building was completed in 2015, it did not have a name until it became Woodlee Hall. The 15,000 square-foot building contains classrooms, a lecture hall, a science lab, and a food science lab. (SOURCE: 6Park.News/Maine, "Kennebec Valley College names building after the former president," February 16, 2022)

When announcing the naming of the building, Karen Normandin, KVCC Interim President, said, "On behalf of the KVCC community, it is an honor to name this beautiful building in honor of President Barbara Woodlee, recognizing more than 30 years of service to the university and the community. President Woodlee has led this university through many important phases, creating so many opportunities for the people of Maine. We have flourished under her leadership." The college's press release announcing the building naming also pointed out that "Woodlee has always embodied the KVCC values: integrity, teaching excellence, creating opportunities for self-actualization and lifelong learning, and a culture of citizenship, cooperation, and camaraderie." (SOURCE: 6park.News/Maine, "Kennebec Valley College names

building after the former president," February 16, 2022)

Following Barbara's tenure at KVCC, she went on to serve as the chief academic officer of the Maine Community College System (MCCS) until 2015. She was the first woman president within that system. In 2015, Barbara was inducted into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. When nominating Barbara for the Hall of Fame, MCCS President John Fitzsimmons wrote, "For over three decades, Dr. Woodlee has worked to remove barriers to higher education for Maine people. Most of her students were women, many of them low-income, many of them single mothers, whom Barbara believed in and on whose behalf she worked tirelessly. By taking on these challenges, while raising four children, she has opened the door to other women to assume leadership positions." (SOURCE: MCCS Press Release, "Dr. Barbara Woodlee to be Inducted into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame," March 13, 2015)

AAUW of Virginia recognizes how fortunate we are to have Barbara, with her extraordinary skills and experience, serving on the state board. On March 13, 2021, we presented her with a Recognition Award "...for her devotion of time and talents to expanding the relationship of AAUW of Virginia and its branches with colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth. Barbara has furthered AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls."

*Leslie Tourigny
Co-President*

Celebrating 50 Years of Title IX

With 37 words, Congress changed the face of education. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

You're invited to mark this auspicious occasion with AAUW.

Participate in AAUW's Title IX 50th Anniversary Virtual Celebration on June 23, 4:30 p.m. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

Branches in Action

Alexandria Branch has had a busy spring. The branch's incorporation was finalized by the hard work of **Sylvia Linke**. The branch had an exciting authors' forum in February with **Lane Stone, Solveig Eggerz, Catherine Hughes, and Dorothy Spruzen** speaking about their work and their unique styles. In March, **Audrey Davis**, Alexandria Black History Museum Director, talked about the history of African American women in Alexandria. **Danielle Beach** attended the Women Helping Women forum at Northern Virginia Community College in April. The branch and the **Mt. Vernon Branch** held the School to Prison Pipeline Forum. Arlington Commonwealth Attorney **Parisa Dehghani and Dr. Kevin Gilbert**, Howard County Superintendent of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, were the expert guest speakers. AARP's 2022 recipient of the Virginia President's Award for Community Service, **Suba Satyanarayan**, spoke about the six pillars of brain health and how to avoid strokes and other diseases.

*Diana Schrier
Co-President*

The **Arlington Branch** evaluated and found eight winners in the Arlington 2022 Science Fair for middle and high school participants who conducted studies and research to answer questions within their own lives. A high school junior brought pulmonary infections to the judge's attention; another explained the different responses horses give to varied violin music; a soccer player shared health implications if the soccer field uses a certain artificial turf; and a worm was identified that makes the best composting soil; plus, several other personal theories were analyzed, opening the doors to further investigations. These secondary students were exceptional in their integration of STEM subjects and their theories. Furthermore, a student is working with the Rosie Riveters program and incorporated much of what she had learned teaching in that program. Finally, an Arlington high school graduate with a strong belief in STEM became an astronomer and is currently teaching physics at the U.S. Naval Academy. Some students are recipients of AAUW's scholarships for higher learning in STEM education.

The branch's last program of the year will be in-person to celebrate branch scholarship awardees and Educator of the Year. Members are proud that by joining AAUW, they work to belong to a community that works to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

*Terry Bratt/Karen Darnier
Co-Presidents*

The **Fairfax City Branch** is looking forward to finally getting together in person in June! The last time members met in person was in July 2021. The evening book club thrived throughout the pandemic and is continuing to meet via Zoom.

The branch appreciates Zoom invitations from other branches! There are so many interesting programs presented by AAUW's branches that the branch members have not felt a huge need to set up a program by themselves. The branch appreciates the **McLean Area Branch's** invitation to co-sponsor its fantastic program about the Rosenwald Schools for educating African American students during segregation. The Fairfax Rosenwald School was located near where George Mason University now stands.

*Dianne Blais/Dottie Joslin
Co-President/Treasurer*

The **Hampton Branch** experienced a wonderful year thanks to member support and the planning of Program VP **Carolyn Stewart**. In March, there was a book discussion on "The Three Mothers" by Anna Malaika Tubbs. **Dr. Tonya Brown** led the discussion about the lives of the mothers of civil rights leaders Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin. Four members attended the conference in Harrisonburg: **Carolyn Stewart, Laura Greenfield, Dr. Sarita Gregory, and Joan Jenkins**, whose niece **Kimberly Jenkins Robinson** was the keynote speaker. Branch members also attended the virtual business meeting. The branch held a June business meeting to discuss past programs and to receive ideas for the coming season. At the end of June, members will come together for lunch and fellowship.

The branch congratulates **Dr. Sarita Gregory** for her position on the AAUW state board. Congratulations to the Hampton Branch for being recognized for its 100% membership retention for 2021-2022.

*Joan Jenkins
President*

The **McLean Area Branch** voted to establish two DEI co-chairs who would sit on the branch board. The DEI Committee started two Student Inclusion Recognition Awards for local high school students, recognizing their work related to DEI efforts in their respective schools. The branch also started a new scholarship in a historically Black women's liberal arts college. The branch board and

Branches in Action

its leadership are working to reorganize and establish a revised Succession Plan and Strategic Plan for posterity and to bring its mission and goals more aligned with the national mission. The leadership also worked and acquired national recognition with the Five-Star Program. The branch will start an orientation package for the new leadership roles in July. Programs and committees are planning to incorporate DEI-related subjects for next year.

*Naz Basit/Sue Christie
Co-Presidents*

It's been an interesting year using Zoom for **Norfolk Branch** meetings, getting to know new members, and being proud to receive a Certificate of Recognition for Membership Retention during this unusual year! The branch enjoyed having members of other branches join Norfolk's excellent programs. **Dr. Teresa Kissel**, who was awarded a national AAUW grant, part of which came from the branch's own Mary Thrasher American Fellowship Fund, spoke about her current research project, and **Dr. Marie Felts**, Assistant Vice President of Continuing Education, also from Old Dominion University, gave valuable information about programs that residents of surrounding communities could also use.

The book group has been very active and planned its last meeting about the books read and plans to continue meeting through the summer. It's been a very successful year and made members closer through the Zoom programs!

*Wilma Robinson
President*

The **Reston-Herndon Area Branch's** focus is branch member engagement and programming aligned with AAUW priorities.

In support of this effort, the book group and Great Decisions are active, and monthly programs included:

- **Delegates Mark Keam and Ken Plum** previewing the upcoming legislative session
- **Helen Cole** from the Fairfax County Commission for Women (CFW).
- **Irene Shin**, the newest state delegate

To maintain member connections, the branch holds in-person coffees. Members are thrilled that the annual meeting will be in person at an outdoor venue.

Through a survey, the branch gained insight into member priorities for the 2022-23 program year; plans are based upon this important feedback.

Collaborating with local high schools, the branch initiated a student inclusion essay contest, based on the Springfield-Annandale Branch's inclusion award. Members will be evaluating the success of this program.

The branch has once again achieved Five-Star recognition. This effective program has resulted in the branch being more fully aligned with AAUW's priorities.

*Cyndi Shanahan
Co-Administrator*

As the **Roanoke Valley Branch** prepares for its 100th anniversary, members have been looking at the branch's early history. The branch will be re-evaluating its book sale as the lease on the space at Tanglewood Mall has been terminated as of June. Here is some interesting information from the branch history about money raising.

"Money raising has been a minor concern and most schemes have been related to other activities, social or cultural. A musical tea in 1925 brought in over \$100. (The Society Page of the daily paper carried the names of all those who attended.) In February 1927, a card party netted \$140. In 1929, and again in 1931, the Lynchburg Little Theater Players were sponsored in collaboration with the Randolph-Macon Women's College Alumnae. Other sources of income were art exhibits, public forums, plays, and sales of cookbooks, stationery, mats, playing cards, toothbrushes, and Indian scarves; and, since 1960, used books. The 1977 used book sale grossed \$767. Some of the receipts, notably those of the used book sale, have been earmarked for Fellowship." ("AAUW Roanoke Branch 1923-1977" by **Anna Louise Haley**.)

Since the last issue of the *Vision*, the diversity group has been active in discussing Native American and Asian American issues. **Dr. Stella Xu**, professor at Roanoke College, spoke to the branch on "Thoughts on the Asian American Experience." The epicurean group is back from a lunch break; the book group is reading a variety of interesting books. The April book sale was a success providing money for scholarships. Finally, branch members are mourning the loss of **Gail Burruss**, past president, membership vice president, and extraordinary positive presence in the Roanoke Valley. The branch is giving a college scholarship in her name to a Roanoke Valley high school student along with the seven other scholarships the branch awards.

*Cacky Wright
President*

Branches in Action

Smith Mountain Branch's Scholarship Committee has worked diligently to select two women from the tri-county area to continue their post-secondary education. The winners joined members at the May luncheon meeting. Special thanks to AAUW's Site Resources for assistance in providing an aauw.net email account linked to the branch website where the committee now sends and receives materials electronically in a professional environment, uploading materials to Google Drive to share and process.

The branch's Women's History Month project reading and donating "Molly, by Golly!" to every elementary school in Franklin, Bedford, and Pittsylvania counties is complete. Due to covid protocols and catch-up lesson plans, books were mailed and not personally read and delivered. A mini fundraiser selling used books and puzzles at the March branch potluck lunch and meeting added area libraries to the distribution list.

The international studies group concluded the study of Canada in May and moved on to Estonia in July. Reading biographies this year, the classics reading group will visit the Booker T. Washington Monument in June to discuss "Up from Slavery."

Smith Mountain Branch continues to grow – now 70 members strong, leading Virginia branches with 17 new members between February 2021 and February 2022!

*Ann Johnson/Margee Kauffman
Newsletter Co-Chairs*

In February the **Southwest District** meeting introduced Lane Stone, nominee for the AAUW Virginia presidency. Lane shared about her life and AAUW experiences with the membership. Each Southwest branch president discussed her branch's programs and accomplishments for the year.

This spring the Southwest branches enjoyed attending the state conference in Harrisonburg. Members from Roanoke Valley, Smith Mountain, and Wytheville attended. Smith Mountain Branch had nine members attending, which was the best attendance across the state.

Roanoke Valley Branch enjoyed a March program with author **Sharyn McCrumb**. It was well attended, and we all enjoyed lunch together afterward.

Smith Mountain Branch presented scholarships at its end-of-the-year luncheon in May.

Wytheville Branch conducted a successful STEM event for middle school girls in April with excellent evaluations from the students. It was the sixth annual event coordinated

with the Wytheville Community College. In May, a lovely international dinner was held with an excellent travel review of Antarctica and Buenos Aires presented by **Carolyn Dankowski** and her husband **Bill Marshall**.

Lynchburg Branch met with City Councilman, **Beau Wright**, in April and enjoyed a picnic lunch in May to introduce its scholarship recipients.

*Anita Aymer
Southwest District Representative*

On April 28, 2022, the **Springfield-Annandale Branch** held its annual Inclusion Awards meeting. Juniors from area high schools were invited to submit essays on inclusion and how it has impacted their lives. Three worthy young ladies (pictured below) received scholarship checks to help pay for their college applications. Each winner read her essay and a short reception was held following the presentations. Kudos go to our Inclusion Committee members: **Judy Baldwin, Ann Sauberman, Irene McGhee, Helen Cassidy, and Moussaret Sheikh** for their hard work.

The annual Spring Fling Luncheon and Silent Auction was



held at the Springfield Golf and Country Club on May 17 and featured **Coline Jenkins**, the great-great-granddaughter of **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, as the speaker. The final meeting of the year will be a boxed lunch picnic at Occoquan Regional Park where new members will be welcomed and officers for 2022-23 installed.

*Cathleen Boivin
Co-President*

Branches in Action

Resilient members lived up to their sobriquet once again as severe storms threatened the **Vienna Area**

Branch's year-end picnic. Program VPs **Aimee Martin and Connie Dillman** activated Plan B and the picnic was moved to Connie's home. The 2022-24 officers were installed and presented to the branch the recognition from AAUW-VA for the highest member retention rate in the Commonwealth!



Vienna Area Branch Co-VPs for Membership Gail Rosner and Jean Feeny display the AAUW-VA recognition for membership retention.

The branch was honored by that distinction and give credit to the work of Membership Co-VPs **Gail Rosner and Jean Feeny**. Credit also goes to **Aimee and Connie**, who kept members engaged with outstanding programs throughout the year, whether in-person or via Zoom.



Ambassador Cynthia Akuetteh speaks with an audience member after the branch's April program.

The April program featured retired **Ambassador Cynthia Akuetteh** speaking about promoting religious freedom worldwide. She spoke of her experience as a woman of color in the U.S. State Department, which was of particular interest to the young women in the audience. They had learned of the program through branch publicity and attended the session at the local library.

The branch is proud to have introduced them to AAUW through this event!

*Laurie Cole
President*

What a year it has been for the **Virginia Beach**

Branch! Even with the pandemic keeping members on Zoom throughout the year, the branch sustained itself and was again awarded Five Stars. This spring, the branch had programs about the beauty of diversity led by the chief diversity officer at Sentara Health Care, personal wellness strategies from the co-president of the Baltimore Branch of AAUW (who is the wellness coordinator for Baltimore City Schools), and the local efforts to help the homeless by the coordinator for the City of Virginia Beach Department of Housing and Neighborhood Preservation. Members also kept up with the Movie Sisters program, bringing movies with either strong women subjects or written, produced, or directed by women to the membership. The branch was able to resume its annual outing to the Virginia Beach Little Theater, although unable to do the usual post-play social due to covid restrictions. Members enjoyed the May end-of-the-year banquet. Although the branch did well during the year, members hope to get back together next year. We miss each other's company.

*Sally Daniel
President*

The **Winchester Branch** had a strong presence at the Zoom meeting of the Northwest District in January to hear **Darlene Baugh** of the Harrisonburg Branch share her experiences as a Department of Justice certified auditor conducting audits under the Prison Rape Elimination Act. In February, members heard via Zoom the Director of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley speak about its programs. March had members sponsoring an in-person fundraiser — "The Radium Girls" performance at the community theater.

In April, the branch teamed up with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Archaeological Society to hear about its work in the area. The branch's most outstanding gathering was the annual Woman of the Year program, which had been postponed twice during the covid years. AAUW has provided leadership for this event to lift women who lead in the community since 2008. The branch will close the year with an in-person annual meeting.

*Mary Froehlich
Co-President*

Branches in Action

The **Woodbridge Branch** endeavors to maintain its status as a Five-Star Branch. Projects, programs, and newsletters champion equity and inclusion, STEAM role models and empowerment, and having an advocacy role in the community. In March, the team fulfilled its legacy of supporting middle school females' outstanding regional science fair projects while keeping connected with previous winners as they graduate and pursue STEM, the arts, and medical field careers. On May 25, the virtual program included the winner of the scholarship established for a member's daughters. The two sisters were 2018 awardees in the branch's science fair outreach and went on to win first place with the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics. They are now off to college in the fall in STEM careers. The branch's class of GREAT Math Minds from the AAUW Community Action grant project graduated!



Monica Nichols, branch member & CEO of Pink Space Theory, and Susan Bardenhagen, VP Programs/Membership, presenting awards on May 3, 2022.

Susan Bardenhagen
VP Programs/Membership



In Memory of Mary Kate Black

AAUW-VA expresses sadness upon the death of former state board member **Mary Kate Black**. **Mary Kate** passed away on February 23, 2022, at the age of 85 in Vienna, VA. Born in Roanoke, VA, **Mary Kate** served two terms on the state board as vice president for membership from 2008 to 2011. **Mary Kate** helped to start three new branches, which were recognized at an AAUW-VA state conference. **Mary Kate** wrote the following in the spring 2009 issue of the *Vision*: "It is important that we keep the energy going for recruiting new members and retaining old members. Everyone is concerned about spending money these days, so we have to work harder to share the value of AAUW membership in our communities."

Mary Kate formed a group of Vienna Area Branch members to volunteer to help organize the AAUW archives with the AAUW Archives Corps. She was proactive in Vienna Area Branch book groups, twice an AAUW Funds Named Honoree, served as membership co-vice president, and started the branch's Great Decisions group.

Mary Kate was a generous host of branch activities in her beautiful home, always insisting that only her elegant plates and crystal glasses be used. **Mary Kate** earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history from George Mason University, producing a master's thesis on the History of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, which was sold for many years at Meadowlark. I shall miss my dear friend's forceful and acute views on current events.

Suzanne Rothwell
Co-President

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

CONTACTS

AAUW National Office:

- 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
- www.aauw.org
- 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

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



Join the AAUW Legacy Circle

Are you interested in joining the **AAUW Legacy Circle** and want to know one of the easiest ways to do it?

Set up a bank savings account, naming AAUW (52-6037388) as the Payable-on-Death (POD) beneficiary. You do not need to open the account with thousands of dollars, a few hundred will do. Most banks want a minimum of \$200 to open an account. Over time, you can add funds as you wish. Even after setting up the account, if you need to withdraw any money in the future, you can do that; you have that flexibility if you need it.

Once you have opened the account, download the Legacy Circle Enrollment Form from the Virginia AAUW website <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/the-legacy-circle/> or contact me for the form. Complete and send in the form, including the bank account number and AAUW's tax ID number and address with your other papers for your executor. There, you are done! **Welcome to the AAUW Legacy Circle!**



Kristin Moyer
Legacy Circle Team Liaison
kcmoyer65atgmail.com