



# Vision

of Virginia

Winter/ Spring 2023

**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.

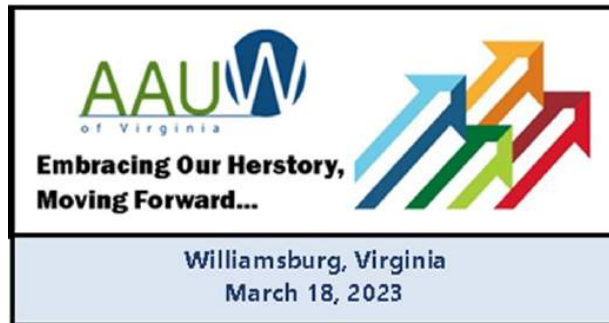
In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

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Vol. 99 No. 2

## AAUW of Virginia invites you to join us in Williamsburg, the city of our founding, for Conference 2023!



The Conference and Annual Business Meeting are being held separately. The Conference will be held on **March 18 at the Holiday Inn & Suites Williamsburg – Historic Gateway in Williamsburg, VA from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** For those who arrive on Friday, March 17, there will be an opportunity to socialize with old friends or participate in an AAUW trivia night.

Historic Williamsburg is a wonderful location for an extended mini-vacation. Find lots to do from self-guided tours of Colonial Williamsburg, to shopping at Premium Outlets, or trying one of the 12 spots on the Williamsburg Tasting Trail, with wineries, breweries, distilleries, and even a meadery for a taste of mead, one of the world’s most ancient drinks.

Come early or stay late, there is something for everyone.



**The Annual Business Meeting will be held virtually on March 25.**

Conference information starting on page 10

## AAUW of Virginia Elected Officers

- ◆ **President**  
Lane Stone
- ◆ **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**  
Janine Greenwood  
Denise Murden
- ◆ **Vice President for Communications**  
Dianne Mero
- ◆ **Co-Vice Presidents for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**  
Krysta Jones  
Meg Tuccillo
- ◆ **Recording Secretary**  
Sherry Warren

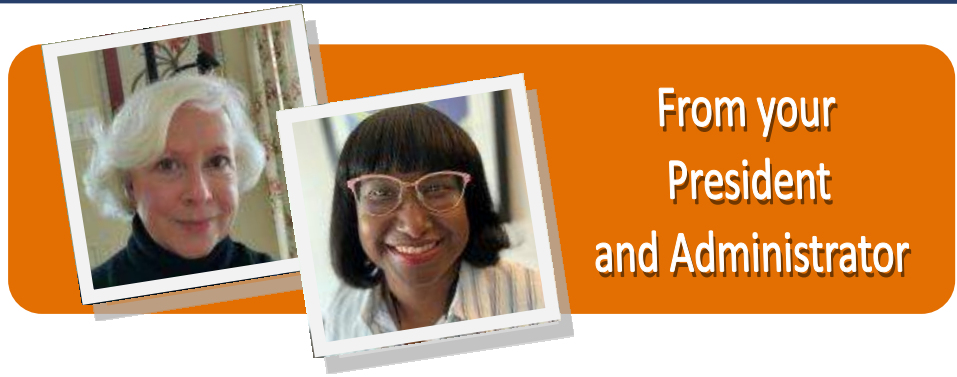
<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/contact-us/>

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

### VIRGINIA VISION

**Copy Editor:**  
Mary Anne Graham

**Layout Editor:**  
Bianca Daugherty



From your  
President  
and Administrator

On January 10, 2023, Lane and I had the pleasure of participating in a visit with the president and provost of the University of Lynchburg with the state chairs for College and University Partnerships, **Barbara Woodlee** and **Cyndi Shanahan**. The meeting was also attended by **Angela Cooper**, Sr. Manager, Connect and the Advancement & Partnerships Department, and **Katrina Sun Breese**, Senior Director of Institutional Advancement, both from National. This was such an important meeting because it led to a partnership between AAUW and the University of Lynchburg. Secondly, this visit reinforced the importance of building better relationships and partnerships with neighboring community colleges and universities. I would like to share a few lessons learned.

One of the best ways to increase membership, expand public policy outreach, and improve efforts around diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging is to create collaborations with institutions of higher education. Branches might think of college students as natural feeders for new members. We should also think about administrators, staff, and faculty as potential outreach for membership. Often, administration or faculty members might join and contribute their expertise to your branch. They might also encourage other

colleagues from neighboring institutions to become active in some way.

Universities can also offer important resources for branches. Faculty members might serve as speakers on important and timely issues for branches to discuss current events related to public policy or to share research relevant to women and girls. Branches can also reach out to departments to support STEM and Work Smart initiatives through interactive projects or workshops.

Branches can consider ways to co-sponsor lectures on campuses or plan workshops or training in coordination with women and gender studies programs or departments. Branches can also support access to period products and campus community care closets. Some branches already offer financial support to women who are returning to college while others offer small scholarships for books or other materials.

Our organization is founded on connections between university women, so there is already a point of the alliance built into our mission. Hopefully, we can encourage all Virginia branches to set a goal to make a connection with a local college or university in 2023.

*Lane Stone  
Sarita McCoy Gregory*

### District Representatives

#### Northern

Susan Burk  
Leslie Tourigny

#### Northwest

Laura Wimmer

#### Southeast

Tammie Mullins-  
Rice

#### Southwest

Anita Aymer

## Public Policy



On AAUW-VA Lobby Day, 25 members and other supporters from around the state joined us for a day of advocacy with our elected representatives in Richmond. Focusing on reproductive rights, economic security for women and families, and workplace and education issues, our advocates contacted more than 50 delegates and senators, leaving them with much to consider. **Senator Louise Lucas** introduced AAUW-VA in the Senate, and **Delegate Brianna Sewell** did so in the House, giving every General Assembly member an understanding of our deep roots in advocating for equity for women and girls in Virginia.

Our advocacy continues throughout the General Assembly session, which ends on February 25, and beyond as we also will be following and advocating for our issues during budget special sessions. Members play a key role by calling and emailing their representatives and responding to other action alerts as they are sent out. Informed members are our best advocates so we provide fact sheets and other information to educate yourself and others here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t0LQU80E0C5y\\_eroidKw\\_SZxicPYziPR?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t0LQU80E0C5y_eroidKw_SZxicPYziPR?usp=sharing).

We also provide frequent updates through email. We send those to branch presidents, public policy chairs, newsletter editors, and members who request to be added to this list. If you would like to receive these emails directly, please contact us by emailing [aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com).

Thanks for all you do to advance equity for women and girls!

*Janine Greenwood/Denise M. Murden  
Co-VPs for Public Policy*

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)

As we begin 2023, we are excited about the progress we have seen with so many branches. Each branch is at a different place in our collective journey to achieving full equity within AAUW and in our communities and society - wherever you are on the path is OK!

One way to engage our branches and communities in DEIB work is through monthly observances. You can find a link to some observances here. You might consider providing interesting facts at your meetings or on social media related to the observations or even reaching out to potential collaborators in the community.

Another critical component of what we do as AAUW branches is accessibility. An accessible environment means that your members can access your branch's activities. We should remember that some people who need access may not participate if they don't have confidence that access will be easy or their requests will be welcomed. This in turn impacts diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, and just as importantly, our community impact and our mission.

As you continue on your DEIB journey, we urge you to take a step back and look at how your branch's activities appear to people with different perspectives and experiences. Is my Zoom closed captioned? Am I describing what is happening visually for those who may have visual impairments? Are we holding branch events at locations that are accessible to everyone? Mastering that exercise is an important step towards reaching an equitable AAUW and an equitable society. Feel free to reach out to us with your DEIB successes and challenges!

*Krysta Jones/Meg Tuccillo  
DEI Co-VPs*



# AAUW LOBBY DAY, RICHMOND, JANUARY 19, 2023



## CU Partners

### College and University Partnerships and Relationships Are Growing

The number of colleges and universities participating in CU partnerships with AAUW has more than doubled in the last two months with seven colleges currently participating. There is more! Branches are engaged with many other colleges and universities outside the CU partnership program through the support of food pantries, Work Smart workshops, and loads more. We are happy that the relationship with the University of Lynchburg resulted in a CU partnership. Many branches and states across the nation are supporting college and university women through the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scholarship program. NCCWSL is being held in person at the University of Maryland again this year from May 31 – June 3. We hope that you are considering providing a NCCWSL scholarship to a student near you. Early bird registration is open now until April 3.



*Cyndi Shanahan/Barbara Woodlee  
College/University Co-Chairs*

### Artists4ERA

In 2020, Virginia ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, the 38th and final state needed to add gender equality to the U.S. Constitution.

Because the Amendment has yet to be officially published because of legal challenges over the ratification deadline, artists around the country are elevating the issue with beautiful, inclusive works of art. The imagery depicts a modern, inclusive American effort for constitutional gender equality and their masterpieces are energizing advocates and art collectors alike.

The art will be on display from February 17 at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond through April 2. You can learn more about the artists and the details here: <https://artists4era.org/va-event/>

VoteEquality would like to especially thank the Virginia Museum of History and Culture and our principal community partners: the Eta Tau Chapter (VCU) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and YWCA Richmond. AAUW-VA is a supporter of this event.

*Janine Greenwood  
Co-VP for Public Policy*



### AAUW Legacy Circle

I was talking to an AAUW friend about the Legacy Circle the other day. She said that she thought one needed to be wealthy to become a member. I thought that if she has this assumption, others might as well. The answer is, no, you do not need to be well off to be a Legacy Circle member!

There are many ways to leave a gift, including making AAUW a beneficiary on an IRA account (this is what I have done), designating a set sum or a percentage of your estate in your will, creating a charitable gift annuity, or even creating a POD account at your bank— you deposit money now, either one time, or multiple deposits, and it is payable to AAUW upon your death— and meanwhile, you have access to those funds if you need them. Knowing that I am a part of helping secure the future of AAUW, an organization to which I have contributed my time and energy for over 50 years, makes me very happy.

I hope you will join me in the AAUW Legacy Circle! For more information: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>.

*Kristin Moyer  
AAUW Legacy Circle Team Liaison  
kcmoyer65atgmail.com*

## Bylaws/Resolutions Committee Report

### Call for Proposed State Bylaws Amendments and Resolutions

A call for the submission of proposed AAUW-VA Bylaws amendments and resolutions to be considered at the AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting on March 25, 2023, was published in the fall issue of the AAUW-VA *Vision*, with a deadline of December 1. No submissions were received.



### Approval of AAUW-VA Strategic Plan for 2023 - 2025

The AAUW-VA Board of Directors at its January 9, 2023, meeting approved revisions to the AAUW-VA Strategic Plan that had expired on June 30, 2022. In particular, the revised General Statement establishes that the AAUW-VA Board of Directors will devote its resources to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging for all members to advance opportunities for all members of the community. The new Strategic Plan is available at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/library>.

### Approval of New AAUW-VA Diversity and Accessibility Policy

The AAUW-VA Board of Directors at its January 9, 2023, meeting approved amendments to the Diversity Policy in the AAUW-VA Board of Directors Handbook, which establishes a new Diversity and Accessibility Policy (D&A Policy). The updated Handbook is available at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/library>.

The D&A Policy provides useful guidance to members on implementing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB), which includes accessibility. The significant aspects of the new D&A Policy are the following:

1. membership campaigns shall stress the positive impact and power of a diverse and inclusive membership and shall use a variety of approaches to attract a diverse population;
2. programs shall include, when possible, information that enhances members' knowledge of DEIB; collaboration with other organizations that expand diversity; and sincere efforts to include speakers of diverse backgrounds;
3. planning for activities shall be organized to be inclusive and welcoming by using sincere efforts to identify any problems related to accessibility and suitability and address any problems through various means that include consulting with the AAUW-VA Vice President for DEI; and
4. AAUW-VA and branches are subject to continuing obligations to:
  - a. promote DEIB objectives in all aspects of governance and policy documents and the operations of boards and committees; and
  - b. conduct periodic reviews of governance, policy documents, and activities for compliance with DEIB objectives, and make any necessary adjustments.

### Branch Bylaws Amendments

Branches must contact me to discuss any proposed changes to their bylaws so that I have an opportunity to review and provide advice on such changes before approval by the branch board or adoption by branch members. I look forward to collaborating with branches on such changes and am available to provide advice on interpretations of bylaws and other governance matters.

*Suzanne Rothwell*  
*Bylaws/Resolutions Chair*

# Online Voting for AAUW of Virginia's One Member/One Vote 2023

## VOTER GUIDE

**THE VOTING PROCESS FOR THE ELECTION OF STATE OFFICERS WILL BEGIN MAY 6. It is very important that you cast your online vote by the deadline of May 29, 2023, because we need a quorum of seven (7) percent of the membership for the election. If we don't have a quorum, the new state officers cannot take office on July 1, 2023. Please take the time to vote as a responsible AAUW of Virginia member.**

### HERE IS THE SCHEDULE OF 2023 VOTING.

<b>February 10–May 5:</b>	Verify that your email address is correct in your AAUW online account (Community Hub Database)
<b>May 6:</b>	Online voting opens.
<b>May 29:</b>	Online voting closes at 11:45 p.m.

**VOTING WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO ALL AAUW OF VIRGINIA MEMBERS WITH EMAIL ADDRESSES.**

New members who have joined **by April 15** will be eligible to vote in the 2023 election.

**WATCH FOR YOUR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS IN EMAILS BETWEEN APRIL AND MAY 2023.**

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

**Questions concerning the election can be directed to Sandy Lawrence ([sandyaauwatjuno.com](mailto:sandyaauwatjuno.com)).**

### MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee has a complete slate of officers for 2023-2025. They are as follows:

**Vice President for Finance-Virginia Kress; Vice President for Membership and Branch Development-Laura Browning Greenfield; Co-Vice Presidents for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion-Erica Brown-Meredith and Meg Tucillo; and Recording Secretary-Laura Southall.**

*Laura Wimmer  
Nominating Committee Chair*

## VOTER GUIDE MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

### ⇒ Candidate for Vice President for Finance – Virginia Kress



**Virginia Kress** has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Massachusetts where she specialized in Latin American Studies. After graduating, Virginia worked in a law firm in New York City in its commercial real estate group for about two years. She left to earn a Master of Library Science from Simmons College in Boston. Most of her career has been in the commercial real estate finance field. Virginia earned a Master's in Real Estate from Johns Hopkins University. Before retiring in 2018, she was vice president and manager of loan administration at U.S. Bank in its commercial real estate division. Virginia joined AAUW in 2013 as an Alexandria Branch member. She served as branch treasurer for two terms, co-vice president for programs for two terms, and is currently the public policy coordinator.

Virginia volunteers as a docent at the Anderson House, the national headquarters for the Society of Cincinnati in Washington DC. For several years, she has volunteered with ALIVE, a non-profit fighting hunger and poverty, as a warehouse coordinator for their furniture committee. Virginia also works part-time at the Kennedy Center as an usher in the concert hall.

She plays doubles tennis with several local groups. As an associate member of At Home Alexandria, she participates in their various social activities and recently joined the Board of Directors.

### ⇒ Candidate for Vice President for Membership and Branch Development – Laura Browning Greenfield

**Laura Browning Greenfield** attended her first AAUW Virginia state conference in 2022 in Harrisonburg, VA. A presenter requested donations of clothing and other items for the female residents of the Gemeinschaft Home. Within a few months, the Hampton Branch members donated clothes and other items from a drive she sponsored. Laura is a retired educator from Newport News Public Schools where she served as a special education teacher, and Title I coordinator of the No Child Left Behind program. Before starting her second career in the school system, she worked for over 20 years with the Newport News Department of Human Services as a supervisor. She graduated from Morgan State University (HBCU in Baltimore, MD) with a BS in Business Administration and earned credits from Old Dominion University to obtain her teacher's license. Laura's creative eye has been praised for her floral arrangements and gift baskets. She enjoys writing and has co-authored a book for caregivers with church members. Joining Hampton Branch in 2019, she has been involved in activities and volunteered to serve in vacant positions. She is currently the VP of membership and the finance officer with the branch. The joy of her life is her son Greg and daughter-in-love Sonja. Their three daughters keep her young as she simply enjoys being called Grandma!



### ⇒ Candidate for Co-Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Erica Brown-Meredith



**Erica Brown-Meredith**, program coordinator for the Collaborating with Lancers for Academic Success Program (CLASP) and assistant professor for the Baccalaureate of Social Work Program, is the director of a student success program at Longwood University that specifically targets first-generation, limited-income, racial/ethnic minority, and transfer students, utilizing a culturally responsive coaching model and ethnocentric counseling approach. Her scholarly and teaching interests include academic advising and equity in higher education for first-generation, limited-income, minoritized racial and ethnic, and transfer students; women of color in higher education; diversity, equity, and



inclusive instructional and curricular pedagogical practices at a white institution; and proactive advising practices in social work education programs.

Erica holds bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in social work and has served as a certified school social worker. The Global Community for Academic Advisors (NACADA) named her an emerging leader honoree. Erica has made profound influences on the practice of academic advising in the form of conference planning, local and national presentations, global webinars, and institutional consultation services.

This year alone, Erica earned several professional awards of distinction: Faculty Citizen Leadership Award and Advocate of the Year, Professional Excellence and Devoted Service to Students Award, and NACADA Outstanding Advising Program Award. Erica joined the Greater Richmond Branch in 2020 and serves as the membership VP.

⇒ **Candidate for Co-VP for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Meg Tucillo**

**Meg Tucillo** is currently the co-vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is seeking a second term. She has been a member of the Arlington Branch since 2010. During this time, she has served three terms as branch co-president, three terms as vice president for program, and chair of the scholarship committee since 2014.



She retired in 2012 as assistant superintendent for Arlington Public Schools, where she had previously served as an elementary school principal. In her work as assistant superintendent, she also served as the school system's Title IX coordinator and provided diversity training for school administrators. Meg received her BA in Education from Molloy College in New York and her Master's in Special Education from George Mason University.

In addition to her professional career, Meg is also a founder of the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families, and continues as a board member of its Second Chance Program for youth involved in drugs or alcohol. She has also served for 25 years on the board of A-SPAN (now known as PathForward), a non-profit focused on the needs of those experiencing homelessness, and currently serves as chair of its Emeritus Council. Meg also serves as chair of the Arlington Community Foundation Workforce Development Committee, providing STEM summer fellowships to Arlington teachers, and as a member of the Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development Council. Meg is excited about the prospect of working together with Erica Brown-Meredith on the valued issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion as part of AAUW's mission.

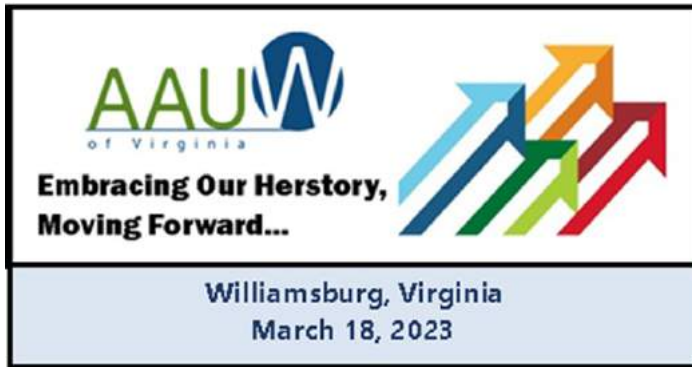
⇒ **Candidate for Recording Secretary – Laura Southall**



**Laura Southall** was born in Vineland, NJ, and grew up in Brooklyn, New York City, and Stony Brook, Long Island, NY. She received both her BS and MS degrees in Applied Math and Statistics from the State University of NY at Stony Brook and became a computer programmer at Harris Corp, and then Northrop Grumman, both on Long Island. Shortly after her daughter was born in 1993, her family moved to Richmond, VA. In 2016, she moved to Smith Mountain Lake. Since 2006, she has been working remotely for the finance department of a private benefits administration company based in Madison, WI. In the past, Laura served as the secretary of the local PTA and is currently the secretary for the local American Legion Auxiliary post, and the Vice President for membership for the Smith Mountain Branch.

Her passion for education started early. As the oldest child of immigrants, she was told that a college degree was her ticket to success, and her choice of major would surely solidify that success and would also mean financial security. Laura knew that her encouragement of her daughter's education would be based on the love of learning itself. Her daughter graduated from the University of Virginia and The University of Richmond School of Law and is now an attorney. Laura followed in her parents' footsteps of expecting her child to support women going on to higher education. Does AAUW support equal pay for women? Yes. Does AAUW support training for women to become leaders? Yes. Was any of this, or will any of this, be relevant to my daughter? Yes. More importantly, our future relies on all educated, confident, and fairly-paid women. Laura is proud to join the cause.

## Conference Schedule and Presentations



### Breakfast & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

### Morning Sessions

10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

### Lunch

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

### Afternoon Sessions

1:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Keynote Address

### *African American Women: The Long History of Advocacy and Their Quest to Safeguard Their Families and Communities*



**Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander** is the Endowed Professor of Virginia Black History and Culture, Director of the Joseph Jenkins Roberts Center for the Study of the African Diaspora, and former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Norfolk State University in Virginia.

African American women were the leaders and builders in their communities, whose intricate network of supporters enabled the successful coordination of efforts that unlocked some of the most severe forms of discrimination and prejudice.

Cassandra Newby-Alexander will discuss the long history of advocacy among African American women over the past 400 years, providing a few examples of how so many defied “the great man leadership model” through their bravery, agency, and determination.

## Inspiring and Retaining Young Women in STEM Fields



**Dr. Marissa A. Rice**, Postdoctoral Associate, Behavioral and Evolutionary Neuroscience, Department of Human Development at Cornell University and a member of the Virginia Beach Branch.

Young women and girls continue to be vastly under-represented in STEM fields. However, research has shown that girls are more than capable of succeeding in STEM domains. Dr. Rice will share evidence-based behavior science techniques as well as insights from her own journey in the sciences.

## The Unknown Glorious Herstory of AAUW



Did you know AAUW issued its first pay equity report in 1913? Why does AAUW have a letter from Albert Einstein? When and why did the United Nations give AAUW permanent observer status? What was the African Educators Program? **Caroline Pickens**, past state president and a co-founder of the AAUW Archives Corps, will take us back for a look into AAUW's herstory and some of the remarkable work we've done to promote the education and protect the rights of women and girls.

### Guest Room Reservations

#### AAUW Rates for Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March 18, 2023



#### HOLIDAY INN & SUITES – WILLIAMSBURG / GATEWAY

##### Conference Site

515 Bypass Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185—(757) 229-9990

Check-in: 3:00 p.m. Check-out: 11:00 a.m.

Standard DBL Queen—\$164.95 1 Bedroom Suite—\$189.95

Available through **February 17, 2023**

[Register Here](#)

#### COMFORT INN – WILLIAMSBURG / GATEWAY

331 Bypass Road, Rt 60 West, Williamsburg, VA 23185—(757) 253-1166

Check-in: 3:00 p.m. Check-out: 11:00 a.m.

Standard DBL Queen—\$139.95

Available through **February 17, 2023**

[Register Here](#)

\*\*Complimentary hot breakfast buffet



Both hotels will accommodate any early arrivals on a space availability basis.

Free onsite parking \*\*Handicapped parking spaces available

Please note that both rates are subject to a 12% sales tax and a \$2.00 bed occupancy tax per night.

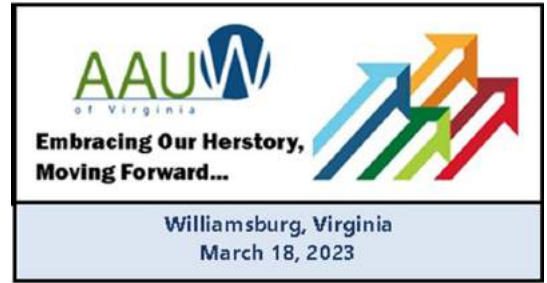
### The Annual Business Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom, March 25, 2023.

Attendance is free. Registration instructions will be sent to members in early March. **Please mark your calendars in order to hear state board members' reports, comments from the nominees for elected state officer positions, and the awarding of the 2022 AAUW of Virginia Named Honorees.**

**AAUW-VA Conference Registration Form**  
**Holiday Inn & Suites—Williamsburg/Gateway**  
**515 Bypass Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185**

[ONLINE Registration available](https://aauw-va.aauw.net/)

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



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name for Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

First-time Attendee \_\_\_\_\_ Presenter \_\_\_\_\_  
AAUW-VA Branch Member \_\_\_\_\_ Current AAUW-VA Board Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Branch President \_\_\_\_\_ Past State President \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (includes Breakfast & Lunch )**

**Postmarked by February 22, 2023: \$75** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: Non-member (incl. Breakfast & Lunch) \$90** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(All Registrations postmarked after February 22nd: \$100)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**No refunds after March 4, 2023**

**LUNCH FOOD SELECTION (Indicate Choice/s below)**

\_\_\_ Penne Ala Vodka \_\_\_ Add Chicken

\_\_\_ Citrus Grilled Salmon

\_\_\_ Vegetarian Lasagna

**Dietary or Other Special Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Accessibility Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday Evening (Yes or No)**

\_\_\_ I plan to attend the Friday evening activities.

**Send check payable to AAUW-VA to:**  
**Sally Daniel, 4841 Brandywine Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 ATTN: AAUW 2023 Conference**

If you have questions or need additional information,  
please contact **Tammie Rice at 757-630-7097 or [tammieaauw@gmail.com](mailto:tammieaauw@gmail.com)**

# Branches in Action

The **Alexandria Branch** has been highly active. The Diversity Book Club and Great Decisions discussion group reach into the community, as does our work with Northern Virginia Community College. In November, members discussed and toured Together We Bake, which helps women in very difficult circumstances. Members met virtually with the Alexandria City School Board Chair **Meagan Alderton** and Vice-Chair **Jacinta Greene** in October. The Holiday Brunch guest was Delegate **Charniele Herring**, former majority leader of the Virginia House of Delegates. She spoke about upcoming Virginia legislation and the importance of economic opportunity for women. The January program presented a joint program with the Alexandria Library entitled "The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In: Telling Our Story." A recording of the program is available [here](#). There will be a forum in February with the **Mt. Vernon Branch** about the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, dealing with the lynchings in Alexandria. Alexandria Branch previously had a forum with the **Mt. Vernon Branch** on voting issues. The Mystery Book Club and French Club are thriving.

*Diane Schreir  
Co-President*

The **Falls Church Area Branch** welcomed Delegate **Marcus Simon** of the Virginia House of Delegates, who represents Falls Church and parts of Fairfax County, to a town hall meeting. He spoke and heard members' views and concerns just days before the VA 2023 legislature began.

The branch has again been engaged in getting out the vote (GOTV) through the postcard campaigns organized by Reclaim Our Vote (ROV)/The Center for Common Ground of Virginia (CCG-VA). After the 2022 midterm elections, members thought they would be able to take a break until spring 2023. Not so! Members wrote 1,100 postcards for the special Georgia runoff election (12/6/2022) to determine the key Georgia senatorial race. As of January 2023, members' contributions to ROV are 18,390 postcards. Falls Church Branch also provided financial support to CCG-VA, donating \$225 collected at the holiday lunch.

Members are working to identify new fundraising activities. Testing the waters with a fun, holiday-oriented fundraiser—a mini-Christmas tree decorated by creative branch members and sold at auction, raising some funds as well as the community's awareness of the branch. It

also won a prize for the tree that was most representative of the organization. (The tree was decorated with tiny books).

*Aida Loomis/Sharon Zackula  
Co-Presidents*

The **Hampton Branch** held a meeting on September 17 for planning and meeting new members in person at the Northampton Library. Members attended the All-District Zoom meeting with AAUW CEO **Gloria Blackwell** in October. The November 19 meeting was led by Vice President Membership/ Finance Officer **Laura Greenfield** concerning Community Hub training and learning about AAUW programs. In December, branch members attended the Hampton Roads Philharmonic Christmas Concert at Fort Monroe followed by dinner at Mama Rosa's Italian Restaurant. Member **Tonya Brown** successfully led the branch Double Good Popcorn fundraiser. The January branch meeting with AAUW VA President **Lane Stone** and Administrator **Sarita Gregory** was held at the Charles Taylor Library in Hampton.

*Joan E. Jenkins  
President*

The **McLean Area Branch** spent the fall testing new fundraising events. The branch was able to continue to fund two college scholarships for returning women and the STEM awards. The branch increased the number of awards for STEM and inclusion to include two new Title I high schools and one Title I middle school. This supports the Strategic Plan objective of leveling the educational playing field particularly for girls of color and from low-income areas. The branch identified three new community engagement projects including a partnership with a local Title I elementary school, working with ESL students, and supporting women through SHARE. Members are exploring whether other branches would like to join in any of these endeavors.

*Sue Christie  
Co-President*

The year 2021-2022 found the **Newport News Branch** still in existence, though most of the branch activity was handled through emails. The death of a recent branch president, **Carolyn Hughes**, represented

# Branches in Action

one of two drops in our membership. Several branch members attended her memorial service and reception last summer. The branch has existed for 97 years; there is a strong resolve to meet the century mark. Members gathered for a luncheon at the home of the only member who is a legacy because her mother was also a member.

*Marilyn Riddle  
President*

In October, **Dr. Lee Vreeland**, president, and CEO of An Achievable Dream, a nationally recognized K-12 program operating in partnership with public school systems, spoke to **Norfolk Branch** members about her program and sent an excellent video of its activities. In November, **Dr. Alicia Monroe**, Old Dominion University Chief Integration Officer for the establishment of an Academic Health Center with Eastern Virginia Medical School in partnership with Sentara Healthcare, and Old Dominion University gave members some insight on this massive endeavor. In December, members had a delightful luncheon at **Wilma Robinson's** home, which included several new members and a prospective member! Many branch members have been able to meet with other branches and attend national webinars, enjoying the convenience of Zoom meetings. Sadly, another one of our Lifetime members, **Jane Hosay**, passed away.

*Wilma S. Robinson  
President*

Members of the **Northern District** will meet in person on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St, Alexandria, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. In response to members' interest in finding ways to maximize our impact in the community, speakers are from two nonprofit organizations whose missions, like AAUW's, involve empowering women: **Sanah Javani**, Community Engagement Manager at Generation Hope; and **Cindy Dwyer**, Women Giving Back board member. Generation Hope is a DC-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure all student parents have the opportunities to succeed and experience economic mobility. The organization engages with education and policy partners to drive systemic change and provide direct support to teen parents in college and their children through holistic, two-generation programming. Women Giving Back supports women and children in crisis by providing quality clothing at no cost, as a first step to stability. Its goal is that each woman

leaves the boutique with a renewed sense of self-worth, empowerment, and a new wardrobe for her journey.

**DONATIONS: At the meeting, we will be collecting baby wipes and diapers (any size for Generation Hope; Women Giving Back especially needs size 5 and 6). Please help by contributing.**

*Susan Burk  
Northern District Co-Representative*

The **Reston-Herndon Branch** returned to a normal program year supporting AAUW's objectives and engaging members in a variety of ways. Branch meetings have focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and public policy. Through cultural events and special activities, members are centering on in-person activities to increase connectedness. Highlights include:

- Visiting the Reston Museum for a tour and viewing the museum's exhibit "Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality"
- Exploring hybrid meetings with a program on notable women in Herndon's history
- Learning about unconscious bias with an interactive Zoom session.
- Hearing from Delegate **Ken Plum** on "The State of the Commonwealth of Virginia"
- Venturing to Meadowlark Gardens
- Visiting Dodona Manor, the estate of George C. Marshall
- Holding the annual Friendsgiving gathering to support educational efforts through the branch's basket fundraiser.

*Cyndi Shanahan  
Co-Administrator*

On November 16, **Smith Mountain Branch** rounded out the fall season with its annual fundraiser. Themed Denim and Diamonds, the event was held for the first time at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Center. The more than 220 in attendance included **Anita Aymer** and **Julie Kause**, special guest stars from the **Wytheville Branch**. Eleven ladies signed up at the event to become AAUW members. With one new member joining in December, the branch is now 80 members strong!

# Branches in Action

This event raises money to support scholarships for local women (residents of the tri-county area surrounding Smith Mountain Lake) who are continuing their post-secondary education. Funds raised in November will also support other community outreach activities, including science camp scholarships for young girls, and will also provide for a donation to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund.

Just two weeks later, the branch held a holiday reception honoring President **Betsy DeWeese** and past presidents. Members and their guests enjoyed wine tasting and delicious appetizers at Ramulose Ridge Vineyards located in Moneta, Virginia. State President **Lane Stone** attended and addressed the group. Members brought wrapped holiday gifts for a local nursing home.

*Ann Johnson/Margee Kauffman  
Newsletter Co-Chairs*

**Southwest District Branches** are coming back to pre-pandemic activity levels. All branches are back to in-person meetings with an occasional Zoom meeting. In the fall, members had the opportunity to meet AAUW President/CEO, **Gloria Blackwell**. This was the first all-district meeting, and it was well attended. Her updates and information regarding National were exciting.

**Smith Mountain Branch** has had a very successful year with an amazing fashion show/silent auction/luncheon. The fundraiser was attended by over 200 women and the scholarship funds raised exceeded all expectations. Several new members joined the branch at the event. The branch also hosted State President **Lane Stone** in November.

**Wytheville Branch** received a grant for the STEM event in April. Four amazing workshops will be offered for the middle school girls in Wythe/Bland Counties. Workshops will involve engineering, optometry, veterinary science, and 3-D printing.

**Lynchburg Branch** is still celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and announced a CU partnership with the University of Lynchburg, which will open doors for new membership opportunities.

**Roanoke Valley Branch** will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May with a scholarship luncheon. The branch will be awarding five \$1,000 scholarships! The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program meets monthly to review books focused on DEI.

All are looking forward to the March 18 state conference in Williamsburg for a Southwest District reunion.

*Anita Aymer  
Southwest District Representative*

The **Springfield-Annandale Branch** opened 2023 on January 21 via Zoom with a presentation by **Mary Lipsey**, a noted local historian who spoke about her book, "Almost Forgotten Women: Yesterday's Headliners, 1840-1940." The book highlights 60 women who made a difference through their significant contributions in traditionally male-dominated fields. The February 18 Zoom meeting will feature a discussion of the book, "Formidable: American Women and the Fight for Equity" written and presented by author **Dr. Elisabeth Griffith** and moderated by **Jennifer Rittenhouse**, a history professor at George Mason University. Members are encouraged to read the book before the meeting. Please save May 5 for the annual Spring Fling luncheon to be held at the Springfield Golf and Country Club featuring guest speaker, **Renee Wynn**, former Chief Information Officer for NASA, and the branch's outstanding silent auction.

*Cathleen Boivin  
Co-President*

Autumn found the **Vienna Area Branch** busier than ever! In November, **Krysta Jones** and **Meg Tuccillo**, AAUW of Virginia's Co-VPs for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion provided members with an in-depth program highlighting definitions for these terms and strategies for integrating these elements into branch activities. Thanks to **Nadine James** and **Julia Williams** for this program.



*The Vienna Area Branch's Holiday Luncheon, 2022  
Left side: Susan Pauly, Candace Strawn, Sandra Wilson  
Right side: Karen Neville, Kaye Cooke, Julia Williams*

# Branches in Action

In December, members' generous donations to the Artemis Shelter for Women resulted in the branch being recognized for the first time on that organization's website. Thanks to **Suzanne Rothwell** for coordinating this wonderful project.

December also found members enjoying a holiday luncheon at a local restaurant. The talk and laughter reflected their pleasure of being together. More programs are scheduled for early 2023. We look forward to the New Year.

*Susan Pauly  
President*

The **Woodbridge Branch** members weathered the pandemic with virtual meetings and small groups dining at outside eateries or sharing audience space. In 2020, **Colleen Hauser**, a retired teacher and Army veteran trans-

ferred from Pennsylvania where she had portrayed Susan B. Anthony for a branch program with a historical society. She eagerly contacted Woodbridge members to connect and get birthdays for our directory, and agreed to be a co-president in 2021, supporting the board meeting via audio at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Fourteen months later, she succumbed to pancreatic cancer. When her family shared its tribute link, members learned **Colleen** was an avid kayaker and camper and had used her summer vacations to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in Vietnam and Guatemala. She shared many photos of her grandson and participated in virtual book discussions and holiday traditions. Meeting and getting to know **Colleen**, if only on a screen rectangle, was a privilege. She supported members going into the branch's 50th anniversary year.

*Irene Cromer/Susan Bardenhagen  
President/Membership VP*

## The First AAUW-VA All-District Meeting



On October 22, 2022, branches made AAUW of Virginia "herstory" by holding the first All-District meeting, courtesy of Zoom. Members from 23 of the 24 branches attended and met AAUW CEO **Gloria Blackwell** who presented an AAUW update and took questions from members. **Gloria** had just celebrated her first anniversary as CEO, but she was hardly new to AAUW--she joined AAUW in 2004. In addition to serving as CEO, since 2008 she has also been AAUW's main representative to the United Nations.

After thanking AAUW of Virginia, which as the first state affiliate to earn five stars in the 5-Star National Recognition Program does so much to support AAUW, she updated members on various programs. AAUW met its 2022 fundraising goals and increased programming outreach to girls and women of color. AAUW's salary negotiation training has reached nearly 190,000 participants, and the highly esteemed fellowships and grants programs continue to support many women. In 2023, the renowned NCCWSL will once again be an in-person event.

Following **Gloria's** presentation, attendees heard from key AAUW-VA officers: President **Lane Stone**; Administrator **Sarita Gregory**; Co-VPs for Public Policy, **Janine Greenwood** and **Denise Murden**; Co-VPs for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, **Krysta Jones** and **Meg Tuccillo**; Nominating Committee Chair, **Laura Wimmer**; Northern District Co-Representative **Susan Burk** presenting **Kristin Moyer's** Legacy Circle Report; Northern District Co-Representative **Leslie Tourigny** presenting **Ann Johnson's** AAUW Funds Report; and the 2023 Conference Committee Chair **Tammie Mullins-Rice** discussing some preliminary information about the conference.

The members from the four districts then went to separate breakout rooms to hold district-specific meetings.

*Leslie Tourigny  
Northern District Co-Representative*



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### Virginia General Assembly:

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



## Donate Your Toiletries!

Once again, we will be collecting toiletries at the state conference. The toiletries will go to the **Avalon Center** which works to end domestic and sexual violence by breaking the cycle of abuse through prevention, education, shelter, and support services in the greater Williamsburg and Middle Peninsula communities. We will have a large box at the conference to collect the items. Thanks!

*Southeast District Local Conference Committee*

**See you in Williamsburg!**