

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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Congratulations ★ ★ To The State Named Honorees

In 2020, the State Board decided to create a special honor for those in Virginia whose actions have had a broad impact in furthering AAUW of Virginia’s mission and priorities and who have provided exceptional service to the state beyond the branch or local community. We were pleased to receive five nominations for 2023 (our third year awarding this special honor). The names were kept secret and were revealed at the March 2023 conference in Williamsburg. Congratulations to **Kristin Moyer** (Vienna Area Branch), **Lisa Sales** (non-member), **Patsy Quick** (Mount Vernon Branch), **Sandy Lawrence**, (Springfield-Annandale Branch), and **Caroline Pickens** (McLean Area Branch).

KRISTIN MOYER

Kristin is something of a legend when it comes to AAUW, and she has been passionately active in both the Vienna area as well as the state since 1971. She served as branch president for three terms; was a past VA president and state board representative and is currently Legacy Circle



National Team Member. In addition to her many roles within her branch and at the state level, Kristin has had a significant impact on her local community. Representing the League of Women Voters, she has trained volunteers on voting protocols and more recently, initiated, organized, and conducted a theater event to celebrate the accomplishment of those who toiled to earn women the right to vote. According to her branch, “Kristin models an unflinching commitment to making a better world, particularly for girls and women. She exhibits a willingness to participate in diverse projects that touch many lives, and for decades she has promoted and supported the efforts of AAUW of Virginia.”

LISA SALES



Lisa was nominated by the Alexandria Branch. Although Lisa is not an AAUW member, she is being recognized for her work towards furthering the mission and priorities of AAUW. As the branch noted, “Fighting for issues including gender equity, sexual and domestic violence, and the

(Continued on page 6)

AAUW of Virginia Elected Officers

- ◆ **President**
Lane Stone
- ◆ **Vice President
for Program**
Nadine James
- ◆ **Vice President
for Membership and
Branch Development**
Laura Greenfield
- ◆ **Vice President
for Finance**
Virginia Kress
- ◆ **Co-Vice Presidents for
Public Policy**
Janine Greenwood
Denise Murden
- ◆ **Vice President for
Communications**
Dianne Mero
- ◆ **Co-Vice Presidents for
Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion**
Erica Brown-Meredith
Meg Tuccillo
- ◆ **Recording Secretary**
Laura Southall

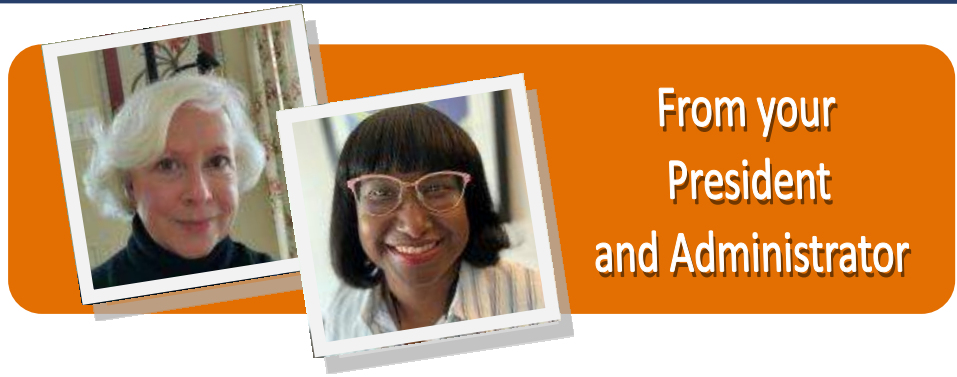
[https://aauw-va.aauw.net/
contact-us/](https://aauw-va.aauw.net/contact-us/)

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

VIRGINIA VISION

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From your
President
and Administrator

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Annual Conference in Williamsburg. We want to recognize the State Honorees, outgoing board members, and make a special shoutout to Hampton Branch's **Laura Greenfield** and **Carolyn Stewart** for their amazing gift baskets and welcome bags. All in all, the conference was a great success. It taught us how to fall in love again with AAUW.

Plans are underway for the Branch Essentials initiative with **Tess Evans** at the helm. Branch Essentials will provide orientation and guidance for incoming leaders at the branch and board levels. More information will be available this summer.

Another gem: there may be a regional conference. As you may know, AAUW National will not be holding a nationwide conference for the foreseeable future. The cost has become prohibitive and thanks to technology, we have an alternative. The central states (Michigan south to Kansas and Missouri) are planning a regional gathering. **Lane** was asked if we would be interested in an Atlantic Group conference (Maryland to Georgia) and responded on our behalf with an enthusiastic "yes", that we would like to explore this idea. More details will come on this front.

We love our tea sweet and our letters short, so that's all folks!

*Lane Stone, President
Sarita McCoy Gregory, Administrator*

**Next year's State Conference
will be held in Lynchburg, April 13, 2024!**
Optional activities are being planned for April 12, 2024.
See you there!

District Representatives

Northern

Susan Burk
Leslie Tourigny

Northwest

Laura Wimmer

Southeast

Tammie Mullins-
Rice

Southwest

Anita Aymer

Spring means warmer weather, pretty flowers, and renewal time for most AAUW members! The new Community Hub memberships now run for a year from when you joined. If you joined in January 2023, your renewal will be in January 2024. For members who joined before 2023, your membership expiration date is June 30 of every year. The simplest way to renew is to renew online through the Community Hub. Ask your branch membership VP for help if you need it. You can also renew by sending a check to your local branch treasurer.



In 2022-2023, Virginia branches had an overall renewal rate of 97%! Congratulations to the 12 branches that maintained or exceeded their prior year's membership numbers: **Fairfax City, Falls Church Area, Greater Manassas, Hampton, McLean Area, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Roanoke Valley, Smith Mountain, Springfield-Annandale, and Wytheville.** Each of those branches received a certificate of achievement and a \$50 check to honor its membership efforts. Let's continue our retention success in 2023-2024!

This is my final article for the *Vision*, as I have come to the end of my four years as the VP for Membership and Branch Development. Welcome to **Laura Greenfield** of the Hampton Branch – I know she will do a fabulous job as the new VP for Membership and Branch Development. I'd also like to thank the state board members and the hard-working membership VPs in all the branches. Keep inviting more people to join our efforts to increase equity for women and girls!

Cheryl Spohnholtz
Vice President for Membership

Communications

What's New in Communications?



If you are reading this in the *Vision*, you may have noticed that the latest edition was sent to you using the new (and improved!) cloud-based email platform. AAUW-VA recently adopted MailerLite software to distribute its statewide newsletter and important policy announcements, as well as notices, reminders, and other pertinent information that is intended to enhance communication among the state's three AAUW membership levels: state, branch, and individual members.

Unexpected changes in policies and requirements on the part of the previous provider prompted the move from a nonprofit, free subscription status to a paid plan on short notice. The additional cost, plus several other limiting factors, led us to look at alternatives. After an objective comparison of the major platform brands, MailerLite was selected. In addition to other benefits, it best addressed each of the major concerns at a lower price.

In addition to solving our newsletter delivery issues, the communications committee is pleased that adopting MailerLite will assist the AAUW-VA public policy co-vice presidents to communicate quickly with members on AAUW policy priority issues.

The actual switchover occurred between April and May; the first state-wide email was successfully sent on May 9. If you did not receive this email, first check your spam file, and then confirm that your preferred AAUW email address is correct in the Community Hub, as we have set up MailerLite using AAUW National's latest member database.

Dianne Mero
Vice President for Communications

The Results Are In!

AAUW of Virginia's One Member/One Vote

Thank you to the 197 AAUW of Virginia members who voted in the recent One Member/One Vote State Election; that is a voting rate of 22%, which meets the 7% quorum we needed for the election.

Each candidate was elected with 99.5% or more of the vote. The AAUW of Virginia 2023-25 officers for the following positions are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Vice President for Finance | Virginia Kress |
| • Vice President for Membership and Branch Development | Laura Greenfield |
| • Co-Vice Presidents for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | Erica Brown-Meredith and Meg Tuccillo |
| • Recording Secretary | Laura Southall |

Congratulations and thank you to these members!! We look forward to working with you in 2023-25.

*Sandy Lawrence
Voting and Elections Chair*

In Honor of the Life of Sally A. Sledge

Sally Sledge served as Norfolk Branch president from 2004-2006 as well as AAUW of Virginia VP for membership and branch development for two terms 2011-2013 and 2013-2015. Most recently, Sally was a State Conference presenter at Harrisonburg in 2022. In addition, she was of great assistance to the state college/university representatives and AAUW National with their outreach to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Sally was a management professor at Norfolk State University School of Business. She received a Ph.D. in International Business and Strategic Management (Old Dominion University); an MA in economics (Old Dominion University), an MBA (College of William and Mary), and a BS in marketing (University of Virginia).

Sally presented at various professional conferences, served as a subject expert on professional panels and was a principal investigator for several School of Business grants. She broke many barriers in her field of study as she was well known for her dedication to entrepreneurship research and business consulting. Before joining the staff at Norfolk State University, she was a professor at Old Dominion University and Christopher Newport University.

Throughout her years, Dr. Sledge impacted students by championing and promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural competencies that encouraged women and minorities to pursue their passion for business. Her memory will be cherished by her colleagues and students as they fondly remember her quality teaching, and extra-curricular programs, including Elevator Pitch, and Business Plan Competition. She equipped her students with the necessary knowledge and skills to be successful in their future careers.

Dr. Sledge was a very caring and loving person, with honesty and integrity. She loved everyone regardless of their race, ethnicity, nationality, and socio-economic background.



*Tammie Mullins-Rice
Southeast District Representative*

Public Policy



ERA Update:

In 2020, Virginia became the 38th and the final state necessary to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. There was, however, a ratification time limit in the congressional legislation in 1982. A joint resolution to remove any deadline was introduced in Congress by U.S. Senators **Ben Cardin** (D-MD) and **Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK) and Congresswoman **Jackie Speier** (D-CA) and Congressman **Tom Reed** (R-NY). Most of the Virginia delegation supported the resolution. Unfortunately, the actual vote on the legislation was blocked in April on a procedural vote necessary to consider it. A legal debate

continues about what it would take to make the ERA part of the Constitution, and the resolution may be reintroduced during this session. Stay tuned....

Voter Education Resource:

The Public Policy team relies on the **Virginia Public Access Project** to keep up with news from across the Commonwealth. The nonprofit VPAP <https://www.vpap.org> elevates understanding of politics and government by organizing and presenting information in ways that are easily accessible and free of partisan bias. VPAP provides verifiable facts drawn directly from government databases. It provides extensive information on individual candidates and a searchable database of bills before the General Assembly. VPAP data visualizations turn complex data into easily understandable information. In addition, VPAP operates a free news aggregation service that provides a daily news summary and a convenient way to find articles about the Virginia government and politics. It's a great resource for preparing to vote and staying informed of issues.



AAUW-VA Joins Fund Our Schools Coalition:



Our application to become an organizational member of the **Fund Our Schools Coalition (FOS)** was approved in February. FOS is a statewide coalition of parents, students, teachers, and organizations who believe that every child in every zip code across the Commonwealth of Virginia should have access to high-quality public education. You can learn more about the coalition at <https://www.fundourschoolsva.org>. Opportunities for further engagement in this partnership are available for all AAUW-VA members through participation in the Legislative, Basebuilding, Communications, and Administrative Subcommittees. Meetings are held via Zoom. If you'd like more information and/or to represent AAUW-VA at the subcommittee level, send an email to aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com.

ship are available for all AAUW-VA members through participation in the Legislative, Basebuilding, Communications, and Administrative Subcommittees. Meetings are held via Zoom. If you'd like more information and/or to represent AAUW-VA at the subcommittee level, send an email to aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com.

GOTV Postcarding Opportunities:

Postcard writing for the non-partisan **Reclaim Our Vote** campaign has proven to be a popular activity for many of our branches, and we are participating once again. Postcards are supplied by AAUW-VA and branches can be reimbursed for postage. Full instructions were sent out in late April for branches who wanted to participate in the primary campaign and will be sent again in late June for those who wish to participate in the late summer/early fall for the general election. For information on how previous Reclaim Our Vote campaigns have impacted voter turnout, go to <https://www.centerforcommonground.org/reclaim-our-vote>.



*Janine Greenwood/Denise Murden
Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy*

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)

As we approach the close of our 2022-23 year, it is helpful for our branches and our AAUW of Virginia to reflect on what we have shared with our members, what work we have done at the local, state, and national levels, and the impact we may have had in our communities. While considering our year, think about the diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging issues involved in our work. Many branches have been addressing ways to be more inclusive in our membership efforts and recognizing unintentional barriers to being more inclusive. Beyond recognizing the power of diversity within AAUW, branches are working to build a climate of belonging for all in their communities. This year has been challenging for us in working with local and state government officials to keep diversity, equity, and inclusion at the forefront of decision-making while individual officials sometimes present unique challenges in their words and actions.



All of this speaks to the need to stay active and alert, to work within our branches and at the state and national levels to broaden opportunities, to address wrongs, and to collaborate for change. As we consider plans for 2023-24, let's keep our lamps lit, provide our members with growth opportunities, and remember the AAUW values, i.e., that we will be intersectional, inclusive, intergenerational, and empowering to ensure equity and end discrimination.

*Krysta Jones/Meg Tuccillo
Co-Vice Presidents for DE&I*

2023 State Named Honorees (continued from page 1)

ERA." To mention a few specific accomplishments, Lisa played a key role in getting the ERA passed in Virginia and in supporting the bill that now requires all employers with five or more employees to provide sexual harassment and workplace discrimination training. She has also served on the Women and Families Committee within the President's Domestic Policy Team where she wrote numerous policy papers relating to equal rights and sexual and domestic violence. Lisa currently serves as Virginia NOW president. Lisa was awarded the Citizen of the Year by Fairfax County in 2020.

PATSY QUICK

Patsy has been a member of the Mount Vernon and Virginia Beach Branches for a combined total of 46 years and has held about every branch office possible. More recently within the Mount Vernon Branch, she has served as communications chair, public policy chair, and president (2019-23). On the state level, Patsy served as state Education Foundation chair; two terms as state membership VP at two separate times; two terms as state VP for communications; and co-president for two terms along with Sandy Lawrence. During her time as VP for communications, she successfully helped 18 of 24 branches develop websites through AAUW Site-Resources. She was also instrumental in reducing the costs of distributing the *Vision* by encouraging members to receive it online. She originally established the state's Mailchimp account to accomplish this. Patsy created the idea of the multipage conference brochure which provides members with comprehensive conference information along with the *Vision*. She has also developed various conference logos. Most recently, Patsy serves in the all-important role of state web manager. She works tirelessly to keep the state website current to ensure that easily accessible information about AAUW and our mission is readily available. Patsy has been described as a giant within AAUW and according to her colleagues, her intelligence, diligence, creativity, and compassion along with her list of accomplishments warrant her recognition as an honoree.



(Continued on page 7)



SANDY LAWRENCE

Sandy, previously with the Woodbridge Branch, and now the Springfield-Annandale Branch, has been involved in AAUW for 21 years, and as her colleagues have indicated, she has provided distinguished leadership at the AAUW's national, state, and branch levels. Sandy served two terms as Woodbridge Branch president and was also the branch's public policy chair. During her two terms as AAUW of Virginia's co-president, Sandy, along with her co-president, Patsy Quick, was successfully able to increase the visibility of AAUW around the state, which resulted in the General Assembly and organizations with whom we shared a similar vision recognizing our work. In addition, Sandy served on the board as a co-representative for the Northern District for a total of six years. She also served as the AAUW of Virginia program VP. One of Sandy's most impressive accomplishments occurred when AAUW National stopped conducting elections for state affiliates. Sandy stepped in, evaluated the software, and since 2019, has become our voting and elections chair. In the process, she prepares the ballots, tests the votes, sends out the ballots based on a state-wide spreadsheet, receives and reports on the votes, and authors a final report. Also at the National level, Sandy was co-chair of the Strategic Communications Task Force for four years. The task force's charge was to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities for AAUW's communications to advance AAUW's mission. She is a member of the AAUW Action Fund Lobby Corps and lobbies congressional officials.

CAROLINE PICKENS

Caroline joined AAUW in October 1982 and is a member of the McLean Area Branch. She served as the branch president and program vice president (twice), chaired the branch's 50th-anniversary celebration in 2019, and is currently the branch bylaws and policies chair and parliamentarian. She began serving on the AAUW of Virginia State Board in the 1990s as parliamentarian; president (two terms 2010-2014); and Northern District co-representative and AAUW Funds chair, both for two terms. In 1985, she joined the National AAUW office staff. She worked for 15 years in the executive office, eventually becoming the executive office director.

She retired from the National AAUW office in 2010. She was appointed to the AAUW Bylaws Committee in 2004 and was the chair when the Association and Foundation merged in 2009, which involved a complete re-write of the charters of each and development of new AAUW Bylaws. She chaired the AAUW Archives Task Force and is a co-founder of the AAUW Archives Corps. She currently serves on the AAUW Advancement Committee, which comprises 14-15 AAUW members from around the country and focuses on fundraising, member recruitment, and retention. She is the liaison from that committee to the state presidents of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.



This article was submitted by the State Named Honoree committee – **Deborah Dodd**, past state board member (Springfield-Annandale Branch); current state board member, **Sherry Warren** (Portsmouth Branch); past State President and past State AAUW Funds Chair **Caroline Pickens** (McLean Area Branch); Co-President **Diane Schrier** (Alexandria Branch); and AAUW Funds Chair and Nominating Committee Chair **Ann Johnson** (Smith Mountain Branch).

*Ann Johnson
AAUW Funds Chair*



Embracing Our Herstory,
Moving Forward...



Williamsburg, Virginia
March 18, 2023

A good time was had by all!



Posting of the Colors:
Colonial Coast Girl Scout
Troop 1087



Barbara Ramsey, Williamsburg City
Council Member welcomed the group.



Left to right: Sarita Gregory, Keynote Speaker
Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, and Lane Stone.



Happy Attendees



Above, left to right, past state presidents:

- Suzanne Rothwell, Patsy Quick, Caroline Pickens, Nancy Richardson, Sandy Lawrence, Neola Waller, Kristin Moyer, Laura Wimmer, Peggy Stotz, Carol Stephens, Leslie Tourigny.



Left: speaker Dr. Marissa A. Rice



Right: Former state president,
Peggy Stotz, is surprised when
everyone sings happy birthday
to her.

More good times at the Conference!



Speakers Lauren Goren, left, and Caroline Pickens, right, with Sarita and Lane.



Above, Lane & Sarita with departing board members, from left to right, Sherry Warren, Marsha Melkonian, Cyndi Shanahan, and Kathy Batkin.



Sarita with (left) Gwyndolyn Lee-Lomax & (right) Justine Robertson



Left, Anita Aymer invited everyone to the 2024 Conference in Lynchburg.



Congratulations to (left) Nadine James, VP for Program & (right) Tammie Mullins-Rice, Conference Chair, for a wonderfully successful AAUW-VA 2023 Conference in Williamsburg!

Time to Submit IRS Form 990-N Information to AAUW



What Does Every Branch Need to Do? Every AAUW branch is required to submit to AAUW National the information needed so that AAUW can file **IRS Form 990-N** on behalf of the branch. The submission to AAUW must be made through the Community Hub by **October 15, 2023**. Any branch that has gross receipts of \$50,000 or more is also required to submit Branch Form 990-N directly to the IRS by November 15, 2023.

What Happens if No Filing Is Made With the IRS? Failure of a branch to timely file 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.

Helpful Guidance for the Form: To submit the information needed by AAUW, the branch president or vice president for finance or membership should:

- Login to your SNAPSHOT. **Click** the MY AFFILIATIONS → the square blue button next to the branch name → TAX INFORMATION → ADD NEW TAX DETAILS. This will open the AAUW form that must be completed.
- Verify that the branch Employer Identification Number is correct.
- Answer these questions with “yes” or “no:”
 - (1) Are Gross Receipts less than \$50,000?
 - (2) Do you want AAUW to file your 990-N?
 - (3) Has the business been terminated?
- Provide the name/address of a principal officer. I recommend that you only list an officer located in Virginia and, if possible, in a town/city that is consistent with the branch name.
- Provide the branch website URL.
- Click NEXT to see a message that the information has been saved.
- Click FINISH, which will display a copy of your submission.

*Suzanne Rothwell
Bylaws and Resolutions Chair*

Branches in Action

The **Alexandria Branch** has had exciting meetings that other branches and other groups joined. The February meeting with the **Mt. Vernon Branch** was about the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, honoring the victims of the two known lynchings that took place in Alexandria. In March, guests from other branches joined us in the "Getting Money Out of Politics" talk by **Nancy Morgan**, Coordinator of the Virginia Chapter of American Promise. Virginia has almost zero regulations for the use of political donations. "Mary Stuart" was the Little Theatre of Alexandria fundraiser play, sponsored with the **Mt. Vernon Branch**. The May meeting was a women's history walk, guided by the nonprofit Alexandria Celebrates Women. The June luncheon will be an awards ceremony, business meeting, and a short speech on the book-banning craze sweeping parts of the country.

*Diane Schrier
Co-President*

The **Arlington Branch** had a busy spring with mostly in-person activities. In March, the branch elected the following new officers for the next two years: **Theresa Bratt**, president; **Barbara Gallagher** and **Barbara Smith**, co-vice presidents for programs; and **Joy Gatewood**, third vice president for communications. Second Vice-President for Membership **Candace Lilyquist**, Treasurer **Mary Spatz**, and Secretary **Denise Hassanein** will complete their terms next year. Members also had a wonderful discussion on their workplace experiences after the guest speaker from Marymount University provided an update on Title IX.

In April, members met the STEM scholarship winner and runners-up from Arlington Community High School and middle schools via Zoom. Members were amazed by the variety and depth of their science fair project presentations and heard from a graduate who is now a naturalist in California. In May, the branch presented the Teacher of the Year award and three more academic scholarships. Branch members were also busy this spring with the monthly book club and high school lunch bunch. Starting in early summer, the branch will begin implementing a plan to increase branch membership.

*Theresa Bratt
Co-President*

In April, the **Falls Church Area Branch** and the **McLean Area Branch** hosted "A Call To Action: Together Making a Difference in Our Community." Speakers from Graham Road Elementary School, a Title I school, and Welcoming Falls Church, a 501(c)(3) charitable organiza-

tion welcoming refugees to the area, gave an overview of the many ways branch members could volunteer at either organization and have a measurable impact on the community. Using the power of larger numbers, members hope the collaboration will make a greater impact on the community, and to program more effectively and advance AAUW policies and goals.

On May 19 and May 20, the branch held a slimmed-down version of its signature book sale, in collaboration with the Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society, which had its Treasure Attic sale, selling marvelous works of fiction and nonfiction, mostly in mint condition. Additional fundraising efforts this spring included dining at Pizzeria Orso and, for local scholarship awards, a direct appeal to members. The branch hopes to build a larger fundraising structure next year.

This spring, the branch awarded two special grants. The first, to the AVID program at Justice High School in Falls Church, will cover some of the transportation expenses for students visiting colleges. Welcoming Falls Church also received a grant to purchase English picture dictionaries for use in the childcare setting that is provided adjacent to evening ESL for refugees. In May, the branch awarded 17 scholarships to deserving young women scholars. This was the largest number of scholarship recipients and a huge source of branch pride. Branch efforts to focus on the community and to collaborate with partners were rewarding.

*Sharon Zackula/Aida Loomis
Co-Presidents*



At the March 25th SUCCESS! Conference Tina Coates, an accountant, presented. She first presented in 1993 for us when her mom was a branch member helping with registration- so this was another 30th anniversary for us! It was great to see Tina and to be part of the conference once again.

The **Greater Manassas Branch** members supported the 30th-anniversary celebration of the "SUCCESS!" Conference with the **Woodbridge Branch**, which was

Branches in Action

inaugurated in March of 1991, with just 90 students attending three breakout sessions and their parents arriving for the last hour to hear about the "Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America" research study from AAUW Vice President **Ann Chipley**. For "SUCCESS! 2023," the branch was a financial supporter in addition to helping with registration, attending workshops to support the presenters, and distributing t-shirts. Branch members have continued to interact with our sister branch for community outreach, sharing audience space for arts programs and lifelong learning programs.

*Nancy Bentrem/Nancy Mackenzie
Finance Officer/ Past President & Lifetime Member*

The **Hampton Branch** experienced a wonderful and productive year. Members participated in the Zoom planning meetings beginning in January 2023, chaired by **Tammie Mullins-Rice** for the conference in Williamsburg.

The branch members were treated to a presentation by member **Carmina Sanchez Del-Valle** in February. She shared a video presentation of her mother's art; **Frances Del-Valle** was a surrealist artist depicting life involving women in the 1950s and her native Puerto Rico.

The members enjoyed the Southeast District Zoom presentation by **Dr. Maureen Elgersman-Lee** who is the Bray School Lab Director for the College of William and Mary. The Bray School in Williamsburg was established in 1760 and remained open until 1774. The building itself is the oldest one in the United States dedicated to the education of free and enslaved children. It is currently being restored by the College of William and Mary.

Dr. Elgersman-Lee presented slides during her presentation which showed the Bray School as it is being restored.

Elections were held at the April branch meeting: President-**Carolyn Stewart**; Vice-President of Membership/Finance-**Laura Greenfield**; Vice President of Program-**Sarita McCoy Gregory**; and Secretary-**Joan Jenkins**. The May meeting had a presentation by member **Margaret Bristow**, who shared information from her travels: "Strong But Kind: Women in Leadership in Ghana, Tanzania, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Fuji Islands, and Angola."

The 2022-2023 year will conclude with the traditional lunch in June.

*Joan Jenkins
President*

The **Harrisonburg Branch** had a busy and successful year. Programs included topics about Indigenous populations, issues facing school boards, the living wage campaign, the American militia movement, remembering the



Presentation: Women's health research in Tanzania

African American community of Newtown, affordable housing in the Shenandoah Valley, and international women's health research in Africa...as well as taking part in the International Women's Day Parade & Program in Harrisonburg.

The branch continues to award an annual \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior girl in city and county high schools.

The branch has three new members: **Monica Robinson** (former president of the local NAACP and recently elected City Council member), **Juanita Mendenhall** (active in Indiana and South Carolina branches), and **Cynthia Mora**.



Casual lunch at Mashita's Korean Restaurant in Harrisonburg

Many of the members have joined the newly revived chapter of the NAACP in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

New branch officers are:

- President – **Laura Zarrugh**
- Membership Co-Chairs - **Kim Shipe & Laura Dansby**
- Finance Officer – **Sue Gier**
- Program Co-Chairs – **Mary Perramond & Judy Sullivan**
- Secretaries – **Elayne Smith & Cindy Crim**
- Publicity – **Kim Shipe & Rosemarie Palmer**
- Webmaster – **Rosemarie Palmer**

*Kim Shipe/Rosemarie Palmer
Publicity Chairs*

Branches in Action

Norfolk Branch's last 2023 meeting featured a lovely, poised Old Dominion University (ODU) student who just completed a year serving as the first student representative on the ODU Board of Directors. An article published about her said, "When She Speaks, the Board Listens! "

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of our dear friend and Past President **Sally A. Sledge**. Sally had been very active in the Norfolk Branch and state AAUW meetings and was a management professor at Norfolk State University. She impacted her students by championing and promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural competencies that encouraged women and minorities to use their passion for business. She is greatly missed, and her memory will be cherished by all. (See obituary on page 4)

*Wilma S. Robinson
President*

On February 25th, the **Northern District** held the first of its two 2023 meetings. With 40 people attending from 10 of the 11 branches, it was clear that members welcomed the opportunity to meet in person. The meeting focused on maximizing our impact in the community through collaborations with two local organizations that empower women. Members heard from Community Engagement Manager **Sanah Jivani** at Generation Hope and **Cindy Dwyer**, a board member at Women Giving Back. Generation Hope is a DC-based non-profit organization whose mission is to ensure all student parents have opportunities to succeed. Women Giving Back supports women and children in crisis by providing quality clothing at no cost. Members collected diapers and wipes for both organizations at the meeting. For more information on how you can support these wonderful organizations: <https://www.generationhope.org> and <https://womengivingback.org>

Save the Dates: The next Northern District meetings are scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2023, (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.), and Saturday, March 9, 2024 (10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.). Program information will be circulated in the coming months.

*Susan Burk/Leslie Tourigny
Northern District Co-Representatives*

The **Portsmouth Branch** congratulates member, **Marie Callo**, who has been a member of AAUW for 50 years. The branch celebrated her years of leadership, service, and friendship at the annual picnic on May 15.



SEATED: Phyllis Shannon, Marie Callo, Joyce Saveika, Evelyn Thomson, Marilyn Williford
STANDING: Kathy Batkin, Sherry Warren, Jacque Dessino, Denise Murden

Thank you to members **Kathy Batkin**, **Denise Murden**, and **Sherry Warren** for their active participation on the AAUW-VA Conference Planning Committee. Your hard work in making this a successful event is appreciated. The book group has done a wonderful job of meeting in a hybrid manner combining Zoom and in-person meetings. The Portsmouth Branch has committed to writing 100 postcards in support of the Get the Vote Out project; cards were mailed before the June primary elections. The branch plans to participate in at least one more postcard writing project this year. Members look forward to a year of working together to support the mission of AAUW.

*Phyllis Shannon
President*

The **Reston-Herndon Area Branch** will be focused on taking its membership where members want to go in 2023-24. The branch is planning a strategy meeting in September with all branch members invited to understand what they want to focus on in the future.

The branch will continue to focus on public policy with an October meeting with newly retired legislators who will share what their career was like, and how things have changed in Richmond. In November, the branch will host the traditional Friendsgiving event with proceeds of the event going to the scholarship fund. The education committee will craft scholarship plans for 2024 with input from the strategic discussion. The branch will continue the book club, Great Decisions, and cultural events.

The remainder of the year's programming will be developed once the branch has developed its strategic plans

Branches in Action

and goals. Branch members are excited for 2023-24 to continue supporting AAUW's objectives through a connected branch!

*Cyndi Shanahan
Co-Administrator*

Every year at this time, the **Smith Mountain Branch** looks back on the nearly-completed membership year. Members continue to focus on supporting local women with scholarship dollars for their post-secondary education and with STEM camp scholarships, book donations, and educational activities for young girls.

The annual membership and scholarship meeting was held in May. The awardees for the three 2023 college scholarships were the guests of honor and were joined by past recipients who shared their experiences since receiving their scholarship awards – a rare treat made possible by some super cyber sleuthing by Co-VP for Program **Shannon Hannigan**.

This year's Women's History Month book donation – "Like a Girl" by Lori Degman – led to a visit to a local elementary school for an afterschool girl empowerment session. Two branch members treated the girls to a reading of the book and a presentation about marketing as a career.

Regular branch meetings continue to feature local women who are making a difference. The January speaker was a dynamic young woman who shared her experience getting established in the IT Security field. In March, members heard from a management consultant who shared her unique take on a manager's role, her professional evolution to management positions, and the establishment of her own company. Branch members are looking forward to hearing from more local stars in 2024!

*Ann Johnson/Margee Kauffman
Newsletter Co-Chairs*

This spring, the **Southwest District** branches enjoyed the state conference in Williamsburg. Members from Smith Mountain and Wytheville attended. Smith Mountain Branch had the best attendance across the state. The Southwest branches will be conducting the State Conference in Lynchburg from April 12–13, 2024.

Roanoke Valley Branch celebrated its 100th anniversary in May with a lovely luncheon with their scholarship recipients.

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

Wytheville Branch conducted its seventh annual STEM event for middle school girls in April with 43 girls in attendance. It was the best turnout ever.

Lynchburg Branch had an informative program with **Amanda McGovern** presenting the "Evolution of Title IX on Campuses." The branch has also added the University of Lynchburg as a college/university partner.

A Southwest District meeting will be planned for the fall.

*Anita Aymer
Southwest District Representative*

The **Springfield-Annandale Branch** held its 20th Annual Spring Fling at the Springfield Golf and Country Club on May 5. The luncheon was followed by a dynamic



presentation from former Chief Information Officer for NASA **Renee Wynn**.

The silent auction was a popular feature with members and guests alike. The branch honored seven members of the committee for their

contributions to the branch with certificates from AAUW of Virginia: **Ann Sauberman, Irene McGhee, Karen Flann, Sallie Williams, Rose Clark, Deborah Dodd, and Sharon Draper**.

The final meeting for the year will be a branch picnic at Occoquan Regional Park with the installation of new officers for 2023-2025: Co-presidents are **Cathleen Boivin** and **Ann Sauberman**, Co-vice presidents for program are **Irene McGhee** and **Amy Crolius**, and treasurer is **Sharon Draper**.

*Cathie Boivin
Co-President*

In April, the **Vienna Area Branch** enjoyed a potluck at the home of Co-President **Candace Strawn**. Branch members and their guests enjoyed an eclectic, delicious dinner followed by a group singalong of "Swinging on a Star" with lyrics altered to reflect AAUW's priorities and values. The branch came together for the May picnic to elect officers, salute outgoing officers, and celebrate this year's named honorees.

*Susan Pauly
Co-President*

Branches in Action

The **Virginia Beach Branch** enjoyed a busy spring. Virginia Wesleyan University invited branch members to participate in its International Women's Day program. Ten members attended the excellent presentation and were recognized by the university. The branch also participated in an Equal Pay Day event. Members operated the popcorn machine, providing containers of varying sizes (dependent upon one's sex and ethnicity) to students and staff, and distributed AAUW materials describing the pay gap. Some 70 students came for popcorn and/or materials.

The branch supported a student attending NCCWSL, including the STEM event, and was able to provide some travel money. Virginia Wesleyan University matched the branch's resources enabling a second student to attend. Two students from the university will represent AAUW in Maryland.

On April 19, members elected **Maria Kronenburg** and **Jeanette Olson** to serve as co-presidents. **Karen Rhone** and **Rachel Vincitore** are co-vice presidents for membership. **Kathleen Stasulis** is the new board secretary, and **Tammie Mullins-Rice** was elected to continue her splendid work as finance officer. Other board members are completing two-year terms.

The branch held a banquet on May 17 to celebrate its accomplishments this year.

Barbara Woodlee/Sally Daniel
Co-Presidents

The **Woodbridge Branch** is proudly completing its 50th year, experiencing many changes in the community, the relocation of members who remain loyal from Texas to Georgia and sites in between, and collaborating with affinity groups to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the "Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS!" Conference in March. After a four-year hiatus, the branch welcomed 100 students in grades 5-12, their parents and teachers totaling 70 or more, and a full slate of 28 presenters representing STEAMM fields. The team of science fair judges decided on awards for seven middle-school STEM students at the March 18 regional fair. **Pam Coan Epler** represented the branch in person at the Williamsburg AAUW conference that day; she's been a branch member since 1979, currently working on her Ph.D. and a SUCCESS! presenter. With "SUCCESS!" on March 25, 13 members supported registration, presenting, and attending workshops.

Susan Bardenhagen
Membership VP and SUCCESS! Conference Coordinator



At the 2023 SUCCESS! Conference, systems engineer Kari Bingen, in the lab coat, is working with a room full of parents, teachers, and students - all building an edible spacecraft. She first presented in 2006 when she worked for the Aerospace Corporation.



Four of the 15 members who supported the March 25th conference as checking-in volunteers - Lucy Adwoa Afful, Irene Cromer, Elizabeth Blindauer, and Eileen Thrall.

Thanks to the support from nine new members, the **Wytheville Branch** increased its holiday support to the regional Family Resource Center for Domestic Violence with gift cards for the women and their children. Branch efforts this spring focused on the STEM Workshops for middle school girls which were highly successful. For the seventh time, the branch hosted the event at Wytheville Community College with four hands-on sessions featuring veterinary medicine, optometry, 3-D printing, and electrical circuitry. The committee, led by Anita Aymer, organized and successfully recruited 43 girls from Wythe and Bland County Schools. Branch members provided the person-power to make it happen from registration to serving lunch and cleaning up. The following week, the branch celebrated its success with social networking at a locally owned woman's wine bar/café, along with potential new members.

Alma L Watson
President

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