

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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## Another Important Election!

### GET OUT THE VOTE

Early voting is already underway for the November 7 election of all 140 seats in the Virginia General Assembly. The outcome will have an enormous impact on AAUW’s public policy priorities and the lives of women and girls in the Commonwealth. Recognizing the risks and opportunities of this election, AAUW-VA members have stepped up to help ensure that voters go to the polls and that when they get there, they understand how candidates stand on our public policy priorities.

#### Voter Guides for all 40 Virginia Senate races are available on the AAUW-VA Public Policy shared drive:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cSSWPBTYjfxMEx1F4a8EIGo0BKpulp\\_F?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cSSWPBTYjfxMEx1F4a8EIGo0BKpulp_F?usp=sharing). We encourage branches to add a link to these on their websites and make the local guides available to voters in their communities. A special thanks to our members who generously volunteered to provide the needed background research: **Marilyn Falksen, Becky Gaul, Bonnie Hershberg, Sylvia Rogers, Mary Schifferli, Carol Stephens, Diana Warman, and Sharon Zackula.**

#### Reclaim Our Vote Postcard Campaign

Thanks to branch members who once again wrote postcards to Virginia voters of color, providing them with local voter information and encouraging them to vote on November 7. AAUW-VA members have written more than 3,000 postcards to voters all around the state for the current election. The deadline for mailing the cards is October 25, so if you are still holding on to addresses and cards, please get them sent out ASAP! Branches are asked to keep any leftover cards after the end of the campaign as they can be used for future ones.



#### AAUW National Lobby Corps

AAUW has reinstated Lobby Corps, and many Virginia members are again making monthly visits to Congressional offices. (See photo on back page) Information sessions were held in September for potential new members. Other members who are interested in joining should send an email to [aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com).

(Continued on page 2)

## AAUW of Virginia Leaders

- ◆ President  
Lane Stone
- ◆ Administrator  
Sarita Gregory
- ◆ Vice President for Program  
Nadine James
- ◆ Vice President for Membership and Branch Development  
Laura Browning 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/>

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

### VIRGINIA VISION

Copy Editor:  
Mary Anne Graham

Layout Editor:  
Patsy Quick



From your  
President  
and Administrator

The summer is coming to a close and fall leaves are beginning to show their brilliant colors. We have been quite busy throughout the summer. AAUW-VA held its Board of Directors' meeting July 8-9 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lynchburg, VA. This was a little preview of the April conference which will return to Lynchburg. Lane welcomed back our returning board members and all of our new board members. **Tess Evans** was introduced as our new Technology manager.

Early in the summer, we sponsored an ERA Centennial bus with VA-NOW. (See photo page 3.) We are also busy working on a special project, called Branch Essentials. We will be sharing more about this project soon. Lane continued the president's meeting with branches, visiting Winchester in late September to share the mission-based training, *From Vision to Reality*.

This is election season and our Public Policy VPs, **Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood**, are working with branches throughout the state to mail postcards to districts that will be voting this November. On September 30, we attended the Women's Conference sponsored by Senator Warner. We also had a wonderful showing of AAUW members from Hampton branch (**Carolyn Stewart, Laura Greenfield, and myself**), **Tammy Mullins Rice, Janine**

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Save the Dates! (Get Out the Vote, Continued from page 1)

#### Join us for these key AAUW-VA Public Policy Events!

- **January 4, 2024: Pre-General Assembly Public Policy Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.** Join us for a review of our legislative priorities for the session that begins on January 10 and discuss our advocacy plans.
- **January 30, 2024: Women Legislators Reception, 5-7 p.m.** We are excited to revive this event when every female legislator is invited to join us for a social. It will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond.
- **January 31, 2024: AAUW-VA Lobby Day, Richmond:** Join us at our State Capitol for a full day visiting our legislators and advocating for AAUW's public policy and legislative priorities.
- **February 28, 2024: AAUW-VA Virtual Lobby Day:** During this first-ever event, AAUW-VA members will be provided with materials to lobby their General Assembly representatives through email, social media, and other virtual means. More details to come!

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

### District Representatives

Northern	Northwest	Southeast	Southwest
Susan Burk Leslie Tourigny	Laura Wimmer	Tammie Mullins- Rice	Anita Aymer

## From Your President and Administrator (continued from page 2)

**Greenwood, Denise Murden, and Sally Daniel** at the AAUW table. We had a significant amount of people to stop by our table to learn more about AAUW.

I wanted to say a brief word of thanks. During my convalescence, Lane carried much of the duties for board business, meetings, and correspondence. I am forever grateful to her and to everyone for their cards and flowers that brightened my days.

*Sarita Gregory, Administrator  
Lane Stone, President*

Photo: ERA Centennial Bus



## State Named Honoree

In 2020, the Virginia State Board created a special honor for those in Virginia whose actions had a broad impact on furthering AAUW of Virginia's mission and priorities and who provided exceptional service to the state beyond the branch or local community.

For the third year of presenting this honor, five outstanding recipients were selected as the 2023 State Named Honorees. The names were revealed at the April Williamsburg conference. The 2022 State Named Honorees were Patsy Quick, Sandy Lawrence, Caroline Pickens, Lisa Sales, and Kristin Moyer.

**It is now time for nominations for this year's AAUW of Virginia State Named Honorees.  
We would like your help!**

The criteria for these nominations are as follows:

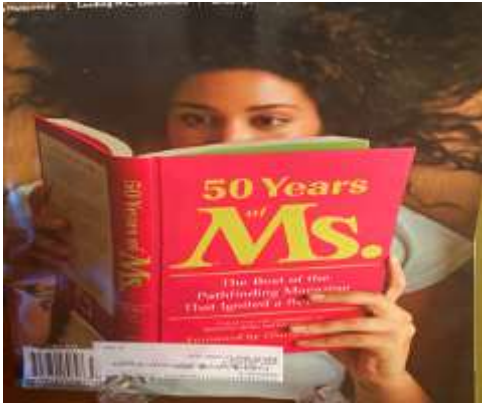
The nominee may be an AAUW of Virginia member whose actions have had a statewide impact by providing outstanding service or exceptional contributions to AAUW of Virginia. The committee may also consider a non-member or organization that has provided exceptional service to the state in furthering the AAUW of Virginia's mission and priorities. The recipient cannot be a current state board member or a person seeking elective political office in the year when the award is presented at the state conference. Detailed information must be presented with a nomination that substantiates the contribution and service of the nominee.

The nominations deadline is November 17, 2023. You are welcome to update and re-submit nominations from 2022. Nominations may be submitted easily online at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/state-named-honoree-nomination-form/> or by using the attached form. The committee reviews all nominations and may recommend to the state board a nominee for each \$500 contributed to AAUW funds by the AAUW of Virginia state affiliate. The board will approve the honoree(s) at its January 2024 board meeting.

*Ann Johnson  
AAUW Funds Chair*

## Membership

# A Gift Upon Renewing!



Let's start our new membership year with a big thanks to AAUW for its powerful partnership with *Ms. Magazine*. Every renewal or new membership during our fiscal year will receive a free, one-year membership of the legendary *Ms. Magazine*, which includes four print issues. The grace period for membership renewals ended on September 30. As notifications come from National on new memberships, branches have continued to encourage members to remain in good standing! One of our focus points will be holding events for new members to join under our **Shape the Future** half-price national membership. Zoom meetings will be held during this quarter with branch VPs-Membership to discuss branch development.

AAUW-VA participated in an event sponsored by Virginia Senator Mark R. Warner. Members registered to attend the **2023 Virginia Women's**

**Conference: Harness Your Power.** This conference was held on September 30 on the Old Dominion University campus in Norfolk, VA. Much to our delight and surprise, Senator Warner's office invited AAUW-VA to host a resource table and present the SmartStart training session. More information will be shared in the next publication as the deadline for this issue came before the event.

As we continue to strengthen the number of branch memberships, AAUW virtual office hours have reconvened on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. ET on both days. This is a real-time forum to share questions and concerns with AAUW National staff.

Please visit <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/> for updated program information. We encourage you to share branch success stories via the *Vision* and with me so they can be shared with others throughout the Commonwealth.

*Laura Browning Greenfield*  
VP for Membership and Branch Development

## THE AAUW PROGRAM

Every year the AAUW's Five-Star National Recognition Program rewards branches for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and initiatives that foster the mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls. During FY23, AAUW-VA had six branches recognized for their program activities. **They were Alexandria and Woodbridge, both earning four stars; Springfield-Annandale, Virginia Beach, Reston-Herndon Area, and McLean Area, all earning five stars!**

**These branches are accessible to share their wisdom on planning and executing programs that are focused on AAUW's missions.**

The criteria for the FY24 program have not been released by National as of this printing. Branches should continue operating programs that align with the AAUW strategic plan and initiatives. Branch presidents will be notified once the FY24 information is released.

*Laura Browning Greenfield*  
VP for Membership and Branch Development



## Call for Bylaws Amendments and Proposed Resolutions

**The AAUW of Virginia Bylaws and Resolutions Committee is issuing a call to all AAUW Virginia members for proposed amendments to the state bylaws and for proposed resolutions to be presented at the AAUW of Virginia Annual Business Meeting to be held in 2024.**



These will be voted on under the One Member, One Vote procedure. **Please submit bylaws amendments and resolutions to the Committee Chair by e-mail no later than December 1, 2023**, using the contact information provided on the AAUW-VA webpage: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/contact-us/>.

**A proposed bylaws amendment** must include a copy of the original section of the bylaws being amended, a marked-up version showing the specific wording of the amendment, and a clean version showing the language as it would be revised. The bylaws amendment proposal must include a statement of the rationale for the amendment. I am available to assist any member not familiar with the mark-up function of their computer (also called red-lining). See the AAUW of Virginia Bylaws at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/library/>

**A proposed resolution** must include the specific wording of the resolution, a statement of the rationale for the proposed resolution, and a proposed plan for the implementation of the resolution. You may wish to review Article XVII, Section 6 of the AAUW of Virginia Bylaws about the resolution process.

*Suzanne Rothwell  
Bylaws and Resolutions Chair*

## Reminders of IRS and Bylaws Matters



**IRS Form 990-N**—Please go to page 10 of the *Summer Vision* (on the AAUW-VA website) for directions on how to make your branch's annual mandatory submission to AAUW of information needed for AAUW to submit the 2023 IRS Form 990-N to the IRS on behalf of your branch by October 15, 2023.

**Update Branch Bylaws**—See my email to branch presidents and bylaws chairs of July 5, 2023, with directions on how branches should update their bylaws by replacing the first seven articles with the 2023 AAUW Affiliate Model Bylaws text that is published by AAUW at [BYLAWS](#).

**Affiliates are required to make these bylaw changes by June 30, 2026.**

**Congratulations to Laura Zarrugh, Harrisonburg Branch president,  
for being the first branch in Virginia to update its bylaws!**

**Branch Bylaw Changes and Governance Issues** – Except for the 2023 AAUW Affiliate Model Bylaws, branches are required to contact me to discuss any other proposed changes to their branch bylaws before approval by the branch board and members so that I have an opportunity to provide advice on such changes. I am also available to assist you with any other bylaws and governance issues. I can be reached using:

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

*Suzanne Rothwell  
Bylaws and Resolutions Chair*

# College and University Partners



Two major changes to the College and University Partners agenda occurred this year. First, the mini-grant program was transferred from public policy to college/university partners. The change was made to relieve the public policy co-chairs who face an incredibly busy schedule with the November elections just ahead.

Secondly, we will be approaching our work from a different angle. We plan to contact each college/university partner individually to

learn more about branch relationships with Virginia higher education institutions and the programs/activities they share. We will report our findings in a *Vision* article later this year. We will also use these findings to plan a statewide meeting of C/U partners in early 2024.

Finally, we hope to be of assistance to any branch wanting to learn more about or pursue relationships with higher education institutions. We have our first request for assistance, a request on which we hope to build.

As of September 23, 2023, Virginia has 12 College and University Partners. They are listed below. AAUW is still in the renewal process. Marsha and I will monitor the website for any additions.

*Marsha Melkonian/Barbara Woodlee  
C/U Co-Representatives*

## Virginia College/University Partners

George Mason University	Randolph College	University of Richmond
James Madison University	Shenandoah University	The University of Virginia at Wise
Mary Baldwin University	Sweet Briar College	Virginia State University
Northern Virginia Community College	University of Lynchburg	Washington and Lee University

# Wanted! Wanted! Wanted!

After many years, Virginia AAUW's incredibly talented *Vision* Layout Editor, Bianca Daugherty, stepped down from her position. Patsy Quick has graciously volunteered to serve as interim layout editor for a year if necessary.

Virginia AAUW is looking for someone to become the new layout editor and work with Patsy to learn the position. The *Vision* is published three times a year, so the required time is minimal except for a few weeks a year. AAUW VA will pay for Microsoft Publisher if you need it.



**If you are interested, or you have questions,  
please contact Dianne Mero at [dmeroaauw@yahoo.com](mailto:dmeroaauw@yahoo.com).**

*Mary Anne Graham  
Vision Copy Editor*



We're about a quarter of the way through our fiscal year, so here's an update on our budget.

We're running behind on our income. We projected \$13,500 for dues. As of September 28, we've received \$6,145, which includes a deposit of \$660 from AAUW that was still pending as of September 28th. Renewal dues are now payable on the renewal anniversary date for each member so we should expect to see deposits throughout the year.

The major expense category as of September 28 is Public Policy/GOTV. The actual for GOTV is \$562.42 versus a budget of \$1,000. We also reimbursed a board member for mileage for a conference planning trip from board travel. The Board may want to consider a separate mileage line item for conference planning to more accurately reflect costs for the Conference.

If I'm doing my math correctly, our checking account balance as of September 28, should be \$43,000.67, which again includes the \$660 pending deposit from AAUW. There are two outstanding checks. See below for the reconciling calculation.

$\$43,000.67 - 87.72 \text{ (GOTV)} - 64.00 \text{ (mileage for Conf planning)} = \$42,848.95.$

*Virginia M. Kress  
Vice President for Finance*

## Don't Forget: Bylaws Changes

### The Mandatory Bylaws Changes

In spring 2023, AAUW members voted by more than a two-thirds to approve amendments to the AAUW Bylaws. The AAUW Bylaws amendments require that state and branch affiliates make mandatory conforming changes to the first seven articles of their bylaws, **which should be completed by June 30, 2026**. Changes to affiliate bylaws that are mandated by AAUW do not require branch board or membership approval.

Updated information about this bylaws revision was provided by **Suzanne Rothwell, AAUW-VA Bylaws and Resolutions Chair**, on September 29, via email. The email included a copy of the 2023 AAUW Affiliate Model Bylaws document in Word and other important information.

**Upon completion, Suzanne will need to review your revised Bylaws. She is available to assist or answer questions via email or phone: [suzanneatsuzannerothwell.com](mailto:suzanneatsuzannerothwell.com) or 703-255-6273;**



“Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good.

Luckily, this is not difficult.”

—Charlotte Whitton, former mayor of Ottawa

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

We are excited about the opportunities this year to connect with our DEI representatives across Virginia. We plan to meet virtually with branch reps at least three times during the year to share ideas, hear about the individual efforts at the branch level, and learn about resources that folks have found useful. We also hope to provide opportunities for shared learning, discussion, and group dialogue related to helping to build branches and communities where there is a shared goal of genuine respect for the value of each person. There have been positive efforts in recent years, and we hope to build on these efforts so that the work of AAUW benefits all.



Our first meeting of the year was on September 27 via Zoom, setting the stage for collaboration among branches in sharing plans that incorporate DEI values. Discussion included the IDEAL framework which is comprised of the five pillars of inclusion, diversity, evaluation, achievement, and leadership. We expect this discussion will help shape the work we are committed to doing in each branch throughout the year.

*Erica Brown-Meredith/Meg Tuccillo  
Co-Vice Presidents for DEI*

## You and AAUW

You are invited to join the AAUW Legacy Circle, a wonderful community of like-minded supporters who have made equity a central part of their legacies through planned giving. Planned gifts, also known as legacy gifts, offer some of the most innovative and meaningful ways to give back and ensure a better future for women, girls, and their communities. Affirm your commitment to AAUW through a planned gift to AAUW National today.



**Together we're making a lasting impact to ensure a better future for girls and women!**

### **Benefits of Planned Giving**

- Planned gifts, also known as legacy gifts or bequests, allow you the flexibility to provide for your family and support AAUW at the same time.
- Planned gifts need not affect your cash flow during your lifetime; some legacy gifts are designed to also give back, providing a steady income for you and your loved ones for life.
- Certain planned gifts may reduce or even eliminate estate or capital gains taxes.
- There is no minimum gift amount, and every gift can be tailored to suit your needs.

**Become a visionary member of the AAUW Legacy Circle! To learn more, contact AAUW Director of Advancement Katrina Sun Breese at 202.785.7766 or [planned-giving@aauw.org](mailto:planned-giving@aauw.org).**

**Kristin Moyer of the AAUW Legacy Circle Team is also available to assist you and may be reached by email, at [kcmoyer65atgmail.com](mailto:kcmoyer65atgmail.com)**

*Kristin Moyer  
Legacy Circle Team*



# Technology Manager



June 22 turned out to be more interesting than I thought it would be! Lane Stone pops up on my phone after an eight-hour workday, a 40-minute workout, and diving into one of three books I was reading. I answer cheerfully and she proceeds to ask if I would accept the position of technology manager as part of the communications committee of the state board. My breath caught in my throat and my eyes lit up with joy and a bit of surprise. One of my goals was to eventually serve on the board in some capacity, but I did not quite expect an appointment this soon. After coming back down to earth, I told Lane I would be honored, and here I am!

From grade school to the present, I have been immersed in the world of technology: computers, the internet, smartphones, oh, my! While I found a few aspects to be challenging, for the most part, it's been enjoyable to learn its capabilities. Throughout my time at the University of North Alabama and James Madison University for undergraduate and graduate school respectively, I was taught how to use the internet as a powerful research tool to write academic articles, to use platforms to create websites as I did for part of my master's thesis and to share posts about ideas, programs, and events via social media. The latter was especially beneficial to my work as a digital history specialist while working for the Town of Wytheville Department of Museums. I've added elements of design and navigation of customer relations software to my skill set.

Throughout the July state board meeting, I relished an atmosphere of determination and professionalism. I listened intently to the proceedings and began to get a feel for what my new responsibilities would be going forward. As technology manager, I will oversee AAUW of Virginia's existing social media pages and establish a presence on additional platforms like Instagram and Meta's latest application, Threads. Doing so will expand AAUW's reach and promote opportunities to partner with like-minded organizations and individuals. I will distribute Zoom meeting invitations, monitor questions and chats during webinars, and provide instructions for accessing shared drives, documents, and any related registrations. My duties will include helping to manage the AAUW of Virginia's website and ensuring appropriate materials will be relayed to board members for their respective branches.

I am also managing the development and implementation of the *AAUW Branch Essentials*, which will consist of guides for Virginia branches explaining the roles of board positions, their responsibilities, as well as differences between national, state, and local branches.

I am truly grateful for this opportunity to serve AAUW; not only am I proud to be a member of the Greater Richmond Branch, but now I get to help a larger constituency achieve goals and uphold a mission that aligns with my own beliefs.

*Tess Evans*  
Technology Manager



"Technology, like art, is a soaring exercise of the human imagination."

– Daniel Bell



***Would you like to make new friends, travel around the state, and enjoy new experiences?  
Being a member of the AAUW of Virginia state board offers those perks.***

**Time to answer the call for nominations to the state board** and experience making a difference on issues we care about and working with our leadership team in supporting our Virginia branches. If you have served as an officer in your branch or other leadership positions, you understand the personal satisfaction of making a difference.

**Join our AAUW state board and help further our mission and meet our goals. All of which could be co-positions.**

**Four opportunities for service on the State Board are open for election in 2024:**

- **President** (two-year term): Administer all board activities; preside at meetings of the board, executive committee, and state membership and business meetings; submit forms and reports required by AAUW; conform AAUW of Virginia Bylaws to changes in the AAUW Bylaws; execute all legal documents; select all appointed officers and chairs, except for the Nominating Committee; and perform other duties related to the office. *Only candidates who are former or current Board members are eligible to serve.*
- **Vice President for Program** (two-year term): Assume the duties of the president in her absence or inability to serve and coordinate with the president and conference chair in the planning of the AAUW-VA State Conference and other state membership meetings and programs.
- **Vice President for Public Policy** (two-year term): Develop and implement plans for state and federal advocacy efforts that meet state and AAUW priorities in coordination with the president and per AAUW guidelines.
- **Vice President for Communications** (two-year term): Chair the Communications Committee, which includes those with responsibilities for the website, other social media, and publication of the *Vision*; and provide communications guidance and information to the branches for newsletters and other activities.

**Responsibilities include:**

- Attending board meetings four times a year, on Zoom or in person, and attending the state conference and annual business meeting.
- Preparing reports for board meetings, the *Vision*, and the annual business meeting.

**Benefits:**

- \$40/room, hotel reimbursement
- \$.30/mile, travel reimbursement
- Board meeting meals
- Meeting wonderful women

**Election Calendar:** From October 1 to December 1, 2023, the Nominating Committee will accept submissions from individuals and/or branches. Self-nominations are welcome. Co-officers may be nominated. The term of office for each position is July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026. Each AAUW-VA member will vote online following the 2024 AAUW-VA annual business meeting on May 4, 2024. For more details, see the AAUW-VA Bylaws at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/library/> and select AAUW of Virginia Bylaws.

*Tammie Mullins-Rice  
Chair, Nominating Committee*

***“You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”***

**—Eleanor Roosevelt.**



**The Southwest District Invites You to  
Join Us in Lynchburg on  
Friday, April 12 – Saturday, April 13  
at the Hilton Garden Inn.**

**Room prices are fixed at only \$139 for a double queen or king room!**

**Our Keynote Speaker will be  
Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar, the first woman  
president of the University of Lynchburg.**

*Plan to enjoy a little shopping because vendor tables will be available.*

*Friday afternoon sightseeing tours will be scheduled starting at 2:00 p.m. to give you a chance to enjoy Lynchburg.*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**More details to follow...**

# Branches in Action

The **Alexandria Branch** had an exciting summer. The final meeting and get-together last year was in June at Fratelli's for brunch. Always active, members worked on postcards over the summer. Members sent postcards urging people to vote in the primaries and will remind people to vote before and on Nov. 7. The branch donated backpacks to Women Giving Back and school supplies to Community Lodgings for homeless students. The mystery book club, French club, and Gourmet Out Club met during the summer. Members had social get-togethers at the Turkish Coffee Lady's restaurant and also attended a movie. The 2023-2024 year started with a fascinating talk by Mayor Justin Wilson about the status of Alexandria.

*Diane Schrier  
Co-President*

The **Arlington Branch** has planned a series of in-person activities that promise to be of great interest to members. The branch kicked off the year with a presentation on Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Chat GBT 101 by Jennifer Swann of the Bloomberg Industry Group in September. The presentation included a brief overview of Generative AI, which refers to AI systems that can generate new and unique content, such as images, music, and text. The overview described Chat GBT, a type of generative AI, and how it works, using examples that create superheroes and how they are used in applications such as storytelling and character design.

In October, **Katherine Spivey** will present information about the Plain Language and Information Network, a global effort to make communication more understandable and accessible. In November, the branch will have a book talk on **Kathy Kleiman's** book, "Proving Ground: The Untold Story of the Six Women Who Programmed the World's First Modern Computer." In early December, the branch will have a holiday luncheon at a local restaurant followed by a field trip to a local bookstore to get expert advice on holiday gift selections for families and friends. This year, the fall monthly book club discussions include "Lessons in Chemistry, The Dictionary of Lost Words," and "Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships." In September, the branch introduced the mentorship Lunch Bunch program to a new group of Arlington High School senior girls. The branch will also partner again with the Arlington and Alexandria League of Women Voters in sponsoring two candidate forums in October.

*Theresa Bratt  
President*

In June, the **Fairfax City Branch** held its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon. After the meal and dozens of lively conversations, members shared special memories of book groups, event and interest groups, book and author luncheons, STEM programs, pool parties, and holiday parties, among others. For decades, the branch was distinguished by its book and author events and STEM career days for middle school girls. From 1989 to 2021, the branch funded \$98,000 in scholarships to about 60 women returning to undergraduate studies at George Mason University or, in a few cases, to Northern Virginia Community College. Branch accomplishments would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of many branch members. In the process, members forged lasting friendships.

*Dottie Joslin  
Treasurer and Newsletter Editor*

**Falls Church Area Branch** kicked off 2023-2024 with a meet and greet of new and returning members. The branch started with **Arina van Breda** from The League Of Women Voters sharing her experiences with registering voters after naturalization ceremonies. She provided information on how to be certified to register these new citizens to vote and witness their first steps to becoming fully involved new citizens. The branch will continue its tradition of participating in the Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) postcard writing campaign. The ROV cards urge VA voters to consider where the candidates stand on important AAUW issues: reproductive rights and freedoms, voting rights, access to jobs, and education.

To raise money for the scholarship fund, two fundraisers are in the works. First is a partnership with BloomBox, a local online garden center that sells fall plants and more, and second, the branch returns to the Falls Church Festival with a used jewelry and accessories sale. 15% of BloomBox purchases and 100% of the jewelry sales will go to the fund for local high school scholarships.

*Sharon Zackula/Aida Uribe Loomis  
Co-Presidents*

The summer months were very busy for the **Hampton Branch** program year. The date and location for the branch's STEM Workshop (April 2024) was set. A host of professional women have volunteered to conduct hands-on sessions with the girls. A new twist will be to begin the day's activities with a panel discussion by

*(Continued on page 13)*



# Branches in Action

the workshop presenters. Another interactive session entitled “Why Our Young Girls Should Care About DEIB” is planned for March 2024.

The branch is currently participating in the ROV postcard writing initiative.

On a sad note, **Lona Ross**, a Hampton Branch member for over 50 years and a member of the Legacy Circle passed in August. Lona held virtually every office in the branch during her long tenure. She will be missed.

*Carolyn Stewart  
Co-President*

The **Harrisonburg Branch** hosted an informal wine and cheese kickoff reception for members and prospective members at the Meadow Pointe Clubhouse in Harrisonburg on August 30. A roster of future monthly programs was handed out. President Laura Zarrugh announced that in addition to the branch’s annual \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior, the branch would also award a \$1,000 scholarship to a transfer student from Blue Ridge Community College. Attendees came from as far away as Shenandoah and Fishersville since there are no branches in Staunton and Charlottesville anymore. Member **Monica Robinson**, executive director of the Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project, was recently elected to the Harrisonburg City Council. The branch has been successful in posting meetings in the Club Notes column of the *Daily News Record*, Harrisonburg’s newspaper.

*Rosemarie Palmer  
Webmaster & Publicity Chair*

The **McLean Area Branch** is starting the fall with a branch meeting in September to celebrate the special women and girls who received the branch’s high school STEM awards, the Student Inclusion Recognition Award, and the two scholarships awarded to women students at Trinity Washington University and Bennett College in North Carolina. The branch continues its commitment to making an impact in the community with ongoing community engagement projects, including tutoring and mentoring at Graham Road Elementary, a Title 1 school in Falls Church. The branch also plans to help the school build a vegetable garden to instruct students about science and self-reliance. The branch will have a postcard writing project in September to support the Get Out the Vote campaign. Programs this year will focus on uplifting subjects related to women in leadership roles as well as work on a collaborative program with a neighboring branch next year.

*Naz Basit  
Co-President for Membership*

Alexandria Celebrates Women’s (ACW) Vice President **Gayle Converse** committed to a historic walk from Alexandria to Richmond because she wanted to demonstrate “Women Going the Extra Mile” to increase awareness about women’s health, history, and equity. She reached out to the **Northern District** of AAUW VA for support. **Alexandria Branch** members met Ms. Converse at the walk’s launch on August 5 at 8 a.m. Members of the **Mt. Vernon Branch** met her at her first stop in Mt. Vernon, and others joined her some days later at the Lucy Burns Museum and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Occoquan.



**Mt. Vernon Branch members meet on the Mt. Vernon Trail. Front row: Anu Soi, Gayle Converse, Mary Ellen Mehler, Bianca Daugherty; back row: Ofelia Perroti, Patsy Quick, Elaine Kolish, Paula Lettice.**

After three weeks of walking along the East Coast Greenway, Ms. Converse was joined by members of the **Greater Richmond Branch** on the final leg of her journey that ended at the Virginia Women’s Monument on Capital Square in Richmond on August 26, Women’s Equality Day.

At its biannual meeting on September 23, Northern District branches heard from **Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan** by video, followed by AAUW Senior Director, Policy and Member Advocacy **Meghan Kissell** and Co-Vice President for Public Policy **Janine Greenwood**. Meghan and Janine focused on AAUW’s public policy agenda and advocacy opportunities at both the state and national levels. National attention on Virginia elections this fall and congressional elections (and a presidential election) next year raise the stakes of proactive advocacy to raise the profile of and advance AAUW public policy priorities with elected officials and candidates. The Northern District again collected diapers and baby wipes for Generation Hope and Women Giving Back, two local organizations helping women and children.

*(Continued on page 14)*

# Branches in Action

As in previous years, the Northern District was one of several nonprofit co-sponsors of a series of candidate forums sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax area. This year's forums focus on candidates for countywide offices in Fairfax County.

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

The **Portsmouth Branch's** September 18 meeting featured a tour of the Student Empowerment and Resource Center (SREC) at Tidewater Community College, Portsmouth Campus. The SREC provides resources to all students including a clothes closet, food assistance, financial assistance with books, tuition, and other needs. SREC helps connect students with community resources that provide support for a variety of needs. The Portsmouth Branch has a long history of supporting the Portsmouth Campus which we hope to continue through SREC. Following the tour, members continued the meeting at a nearby restaurant. The Portsmouth Branch has committed to writing 100 postcards in support of the fall GOV project. Members are excited to recognize and celebrate **Dot Hill**, an AAUW member of 74 years, who will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in October. The book group has continued to be active with monthly meetings to review and engage in lively discussions about the book selections.

*Phyllis Shannon  
President*

The **Reston-Herndon Area Branch** is starting the year with loads of energy and activity. One-third of the AAUW members at AAUW's first 2023 Lobby Day were Reston-Herndon branch members! In addition, members have been gathering for GOTV postcard writing.

While super active in public policy, the branch's theme for 2023-24 is the support of education that focuses on the empowerment of women and girls.

Already the ideas are flowing. At **Stephanie Abbott's** encouragement, we advertised the STEMed for Girls program on the branch website and Facebook page, and we have taken that into our local high schools through the South Lakes and Herndon High School science departments. Members are beginning to explore other opportunities like Great Decisions for high school students and supporting the local high school food pantry. Ideas are percolating, so the branch will keep you posted through the year and tell you of branch successes, those activities members want to tweak, and those that just didn't work

out. The branch's goal is to be known through the community as an advocate for education that focuses on the empowerment of women and girls.

*Cyndi Shanahan  
Co-Administrator*

The **Smith Mountain Branch** concluded its 2023 membership year with a meeting honoring the three scholarship recipients: **Allie Allen**, Randolph College; **Abigail Giles**, Longwood University; and **Clara Hampton**, Ohio State University. During the celebration luncheon held at the 4H Center at Smith Mountain Lake, the ladies gave a short recap of their studies and plans for future studies. Past recipients discussed their completed studies and served as an inspiration for the annual November fundraiser.

The first meeting of the 2024 year will be September 23, a "Bring a Sandwich to Share" potluck with retired Navy **Rear Admiral Terri Clark**. Admiral Clark, whose last assignment in the Navy was with the U.S. Public Health Service, will speak about public health issues. Admiral Clark retired in 2018 and has become a part of our lake community.

The branch rallied for two road trips to local venues. A July trip to Fables and Feathers Winery and Brewery in Goodview, VA, let members sip on their favorite beverage and try their hand at painting a lovely lake scene. The plan was for the artists to work individually, revealing their masterpieces at the end of the exercise.

The second summer road trip was to Lynchburg in August. Participants enjoyed lunch and comradery at the Depot Grille and then met at the Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum on Pierce Street. Pierce Street is the smallest of Lynchburg's seven historic districts. It is the only local historic district that is more notable because of the people who lived there than because of the architecture of its buildings. The docent was **Shaun Spencer Hester**, granddaughter of **Anne Spencer**, a celebrated poet of the Harlem Renaissance. (See the August 2023 issue of *Southern Living Magazine*.) Members toured the home and garden, a Virginia Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places.

*Ann Johnson and Margee Kauffman  
Newsletter Co-Chairs*

Each of the **Southwest District** branches, Lynchburg, Roanoke Valley, Smith Mountain, and Wytheville, are joining their efforts for a successful and fun state

*(Continued on page 15)*

# Branches in Action

conference in April 2024. This is the first time Lynchburg has sponsored the conference in many years. Their new leadership team is planning some special activities for Friday afternoon sightseeing. Smith Mountain is in charge of the evening fun and Roanoke Valley will be providing the centerpieces. Wytheville will be collecting the registration forms and assisting as needed during the conference. All branches attended the Southwest district meeting in October in Roanoke to meet and greet each other and make connections for the April 12 – 13 conference. The theme for the conference this year will be **COURAGE, CONNECTION, COMMITMENT**. The presenters will reflect on those elements that empower today's women.

*Anita Aymer  
Southwest District Representative*

The **Springfield-Annandale Branch** launched its 2023-2024 program season on September 9 with a lecture and discussion presented by Shari Henri, Director of Democracy & Community Impact, Urban Library Council. The topic was "Speaking Out to Save Free Speech." The



Shari Henri

October meeting will be a Women's Memorial Tour at Arlington National Cemetery on the 25<sup>th</sup> led by branch member **Sandra Lawrence**. Branch program chairs, **Irene McGhee** and **Amy Crolius**, have exciting plans for November and December which include a state legislature update given by **Delegate Kathy Tran** and a Holiday Tea with Mrs. B.

The branch is continuing its signature annual fundraiser sale of White House Christmas ornaments for \$24 each. The 2023 ornament is a wreath depicting events from the Ford presidency. Please contact **Susan Burk** or **Sharon Draper** for more information.

*Cathie Boivin  
Co-President*

The **Virginia Beach Branch** held its annual planning meeting in July. Over a full afternoon, members discussed activities for the coming year. With two new members working as Membership VPs, newer ideas were generated to increase visibility in the area. The branch's focus will be the college and university populations.

At the September meeting, a VA Wesleyan University junior whom the branch sponsored to attend the NCCWSL conference reported on her experience. Members

celebrated **Neola Waller** for her 50 years as an active AAUW member. Neola has served the organization in many capacities at the local, state, and national levels. Neola continues to inspire branch members who feel quite fortunate to have her in the branch.

On October 21, the branch will host the Southeast District Meeting. Kathryn Haines of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy will lead a discussion on how implicit bias impacts maternal health.

*Carole Szetela  
VP for Programs*

The **Winchester Branch** has been busy with the Classy Ladies Eating Out (CLEO) dinners at local restaurants over the past few months. The book group returned to in-person dinners and discussions. The newest activity, AAUW Adventure, included visiting a hydroponic farming facility, an African-American museum, and a presentation at a grist mill.

Winchester was a stop by the Ruthless Voter Getter Caravan on its way to Seneca Falls, New York, promoting the need for publication of the ERA and the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. Several members attended their local rally.

The branch continues working on the Three R's (recruitment, re-involvement, and retention) Initiative. The executive board had two special meetings and a half-day retreat over the summer, resulting in changes to the committee structure, meeting preparations, minor amendments to the branch calendar, and the development of a strategic plan.

Members have been working with Shenandoah University's Center for Civic Engagement, the co-sponsor for the candidate's forum that will be held on October 14.

The branch is also working with the local NAACP Chapter to host a joint event early next year.

*Pat Kadel  
President*

As the **Wytheville Branch** continues to grow, members are planning the annual membership dinner at the end of September to recruit additional members. Branch efforts this past year netted three free National memberships for 2023-24 for which names were drawn from the member old guard. Likewise, the branch is proud

*(Continued on page 16)*



# Branches in Action

to honor **Anna Ray Roberts** with the distinction of being a 50-year branch member.

Committee members are working on plans for the spring STEM Workshop, voter education, and a new fundraising venture. Members are especially looking forward to having State President **Lane Stone** join the October meeting.

*Alma L Watson  
President*



The members in the photo are, from left to right, Leticia Maldonado, Farron Smith, Alma Watson, Vanessa Baldwin, Julie Kause, Anna Ray Roberts, Patricia Austin, Anita Aymer, Janie Hardin, and Alison Pollard. Not in photo Suzan Thompson.

## Implicit Bias in Maternal Health

Eliminating disparities that are resulting in Black women in Virginia dying 2.4 times more than their counterparts requires addressing cultural competency and implicit bias in health care settings.

We will discuss the following points:

- Key biases that negatively impact health care delivery.
- How implicit bias impact patient care?
- How widespread is the problem?



**Kathryn Haines,  
Health Equity Manager  
Virginia Interfaith  
Center for Public  
Policy**

## SOUTHEAST DISTRICT MEETING

# JOIN US!

# OCTOBER 21ST 2PM TO 4PM

**Location:**  
Sentara VB General  
Hospital - Health  
Education Center

**Host:**  
**Virginia Beach Branch**



# AAUW VA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2023-2024

## President

Lane Stone

## Administrator

Sarita McCoy Gregory

## VP for Program

Nadine James

## VP for Membership

Laura Browning Greenfield

## VP for Finance

Virginia Kress

## Co-VPs for Public Policy

Janine Greenwood

Denise Murden

## VP for Communications

Dianne Mero

## Co-VPs for Diversity, Equity &

### Inclusion

Meg Tuccillo

Erica Brown-Meredith

## Recording Secretary

Laura Southall

## AAUW Funds Chair

Ann Johnson

## College/University Co-Chairs

Barbara Woodlee

Marsha Melkonian

## Bylaws and Resolutions Chair

Suzanne Rothwell

## DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

(Nominating Committee)

### Northern District

Susan Burk

Leslie Tourigny

### Northwest District

Laura Wimmer

### Southeast District

Tammie Mullins-Rice

### Southwest District

Anita Aymer

## NON-BOARD POSITIONS

### Virginia Vision Copy Editor

Mary Anne Graham

### Web Manager/Vision Layout Editor

Patsy Quick

### Technology/Social

### Media Manager

Tess Evans

### Voting and Elections

### Committee Chair

Sandy Lawrence

Become a member of the state board! Answer the call for nominations on page 11.



# 2023-2024 AAUW VA Branch Presidents/Administrators

<b>Alexandria</b> Sylvia Linke Diane Schrier	<b>Norfolk</b> Wilma Robinson
<b>Arlington</b> Theresa Bratt	<b>Portsmouth</b> Phyllis Shannon
<b>Fairfax City</b> Dianne Blais	<b>Reston-Herndon</b> Judy Helmich Cyndi Shanahan
<b>Falls Church Area</b> Aida Loomis Sharon Zackula	<b>Roanoke Valley</b> Cacky Wright Peggy Shifflett
<b>Greater Manassas</b> Hannah Senft	<b>Smith Mountain</b> Betsy DeWeese
<b>Greater Richmond</b> Laura Wimmer	<b>Springfield-Annandale</b> Cathleen Boivin Ann Sauberman
<b>Hampton</b> Joan Jenkins Carolyn Stewart	<b>Vienna Area</b> Susan Pauly Candace Strawn
<b>Harrisonburg</b> Laura Zarrugh	<b>Virginia Beach</b> Jeanette Olson Maria Kronenburg
<b>Lynchburg</b> Anitra Webster Grace Solyum	<b>Winchester</b> Patricia Kadel
<b>McLean Area</b> Barbara Zamora-Appel	<b>Woodbridge</b> Irene Cromer
<b>Mt. Vernon</b> Patsy Quick	<b>Wytheville</b> Alma Watson
<b>Newport News</b> Candice Byrd	



## How to Contact Branch Leaders

- Visit individual branch websites
- Branch websites are all different and contact information may be found in several places:
  - On the Menu Bar
  - “Contact Us” or “About Us”
  - On the Side Bar
  - At the bottom of the home page

To reach branch websites directly from the state website:

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

## How to Contact State Leaders

At the state website <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/>, click on “Contact Us.”

Instead of going to the website, use this email address: [AAUWVAcontactus@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWVAcontactus@gmail.com). Identify the board member you want to contact. You will receive a response quickly.

## AAUW-Virginia Board Calendar 2023-2024

### September

15	Deadline for <i>Vision</i> articles - Fall	Vision Copy Editor
15	Call for nominations by members for state board - due Dec 1	Nominating Comte
15	Call for bylaws/resolutions by members – due Dec 1	Bylaws Chair
15	Remind members to update email in Community Hub	Voting/ Elections Chair
15	Applications for mini-grants due	College/Univ Reps
15	Request nominees for State Named Honorees – due Nov 15	AAUW Funds Chair
22	Early in-person voting begins for VA General Election	
23	10:30 a-1p - Northern District meetings	Northern District Reps
27	7p DEIB Zoom session with branch representatives	DE&I Co-VPs
28	6p Pre-Election AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting	Public Policy Co-VPs
30	Sen. Warner’s VA Women’s Conference (Norfolk)	Public Policy Co-VPs
30	10a Northwest District Meeting	NW District Rep

### October

5	Latina’s Equal Pay Day	Public Policy Co-VP
14	State Board Reports due; liaison reports required	AAUW-VA Board
14	10a SW District meeting, Hollins Public Library in Roanoke	SW District Rep
15	Vision distributed.	Communications VP
15	Announce mini-grant recipients by mid-October	College/Univ Reps
16	Deadline to register to vote or update registration for VA General Election	Public Policy Co-VP
27	Deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail in VA General Election	Public Policy Co-VP
28-29	AAUW-VA Board Meeting (Virtual)	President and Administrator
28	Nominating committee preliminary report.	Nominating Committee Chair

### November

4	Deadline to request replacement absentee ballot, 5p.	Public Policy Co-VP
4	Deadline to vote early in person, 5p.	Public Policy Co-VP
4	Deadline to request emergency absentee ballots, 2p	Public Policy Co-VP
7	Deadline for postmark on absentee ballot & 7p for delivered ballots	Public Policy Co-VP
7	Virginia General Election, 6a – 7p	Public Policy Co-VP
10	Deadline of receipt of mailed-in ballots	Public Policy Co-VP
17	Deadline for receipt of State Named Honorees	AAUW-Funds Chair
30	Native Women’s Equal Pay Day	Public Policy Co-VP

### December

1	Deadline for receipt of proposed bylaws amendments and resolutions.	Bylaws/Resolutions chair
15	Deadline for receipt at National AAUW of branch AAUW Fund contributions by check. Donations by credit card can be submitted until Dec 31.	AAUW Funds Chairs, State & Branch.
20	State Board Reports due	AAUW-VA Board

### January

3	7p AAUW-VA Board Meeting (Virtual)	President and Administrator
3	State board approves State Named Honorees	AAUW Funds Chair
4	6p Pre-General Assembly AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting	Public Policy Co-VP
10	VA General Assembly session begins	Public Policy Co-VP
15	Deadline for <i>Vision</i> articles – Winter-Spring. Include: Bylaws/Resolution report, Nom. Comte report, Voter guide, conference registration, etc. Request that members verify their email in Hub by March 30.	<i>Vision</i> Copy Editor
17	Virginia Interfaith Center Day of All People (lobby day)	Public Policy Co-VP
30	Women Legislator’s reception (Richmond)	Public Policy Co-VP
31	AAUW-VA Lobby Day (Richmond)	

(Continued on page 20)

# AAUW-Virginia Board Calendar

2023-2024

(Continued from page 19)

## February

15	<i>Vision</i> distributed.	Communications VP
15	Additional nominees for state officers can be submitted until 3/15, 30 days after <i>Vision</i> is distributed.	Nominating Committee
20	Deadline for branch named honorees.	AAUW Funds Chair
28	AAUW-VA Lobby Day (Virtual)	Public Policy Co-VP

## March

TBD	Conference reports due, for AAUW-VA Conference book	Conference Chair
8	International Women's Day (2024 theme: DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality)	Public Policy Co-VP
8	Deadline to submit ads for AAUW-VA Conference	Conference Chair
9	10:30a-1p Northern District meeting	Northern District Reps
10	General Assembly ends	Public Policy Co-VP
13	Deadline to register for AAUW-VA Conference	Conference Chair
13	Deadline to reserve hotel room @ special rate for AAUW-VA Conference	Conference Chair
15	Deadline for additional nominees for state officers.	Nominating Committee
30	Deadline for members to verify email address in Community Hub	Voting/ Elections Chair

## April

4	Post-General Assembly AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting	Public Policy Co-VP
12	AAUW-VA State Conference, optional day (Lynchburg)	Conference Chair
13	AAUW-VA State Conference, (Lynchburg)	Conference Chair
15	Members as of this date are eligible to vote in the AAUW-VA election	Voting/ Elections Chair

## May

4	(Virtual) Annual Business Meeting	
15	Deadline for <i>Vision</i> articles – Summer.	<i>Vision</i> Copy Editor

## June

1	Current branch presidents enter 2024-25 branch officers in Hub before July 1	Pres/Administrator
1	AAUW-VA voting results reported to the recording secretary.	Voting & Elections Chair
1	Voting results reported to the board.	Voting & Elections Chair
15	<i>Vision</i> distributed	Communications VP
30	Last date for current branch presidents to enter 2024-25 branch officers in Hub	Pres/Administrator
30	Reports and receipts for mini-grant projects due to AAUW-VA VP, Finance	College/Univ Reps



Print and save the calendar pages and  
keep them handy!



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

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- 800/326-AAUW (2289)  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 202/785-7700  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Fax: 202/872-1425
- TDD: 202/785-7777

### AAUW of Virginia:

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

### Virginia General Assembly:

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



## AAUW Lobby Corps is Back!

After three years, AAUW Lobby Corps was back on the Hill in July with 14 members, many from Virginia.