

AAUW Vision

of Virginia

Winter/Spring 2024

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

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

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Vol. 100 No. 2



AAUW 

AAUW of Virginia
2024 Conference
Lynchburg



Courage. Connection. Commitment.

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 plus tax for a double queen or king room with breakfast!

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.

AAUW of Virginia Leaders

President

Lane Stone

Administrator

Sarita Gregory

Vice President for Program

Nadine James

Vice President for Membership & Branch Development

Laura Browning
Greenfield

Vice President for Finance

Virginia Kress

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Janine Greenwood
Denise Murden

Vice President for Communications

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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

Copy Editor:

Mary Anne Graham

Layout Editor:

Tess Evans



Valentine's Day seems a perfect opportunity to celebrate the profound ways AAUW makes a difference because of you. This year we will have two opportunities to be together with our AAUW sisters from around the state. Our AAUW-VA conference is first, on April 12 and 13th in Lynchburg. Registration information is included on the following pages. We think you'll agree the committee members have outdone themselves!



This fall we're hosting the Atlantic Regional Conference. AAUW-National does not plan to hold a national conference soon, and this is an excellent alternative. See you in VA Crossings Hotel & Conference Center, Glen Allen, VA for that one. The states that have signed on are GA, SC, NC, CT, PA, NY, DC, MA, NJ, MD and VA. (This list continues to grow as other state boards meet and vote.) We need your help! The conference chairs are Diane Schrier, diane.schrier@gmail.com, and Danielle Beach, danielleaauw@gmail.com, from the Alexandria branch. If you would like to be on the planning committee, please email Diane and Danielle. The theme is Empowering for Equity. The goal for the weekend is to share best practices for the challenges we all face. (And to have a fun time.)



We have been in touch with presidents and STEM chairs about a STEM event for branches to hold (in person) for a small group of students. AAUW-National is supplying STEM Lingo kits and will virtually lead the session, at no charge to your branch. Your president/administrator has more details. We are partnering with VA Tech's Innovation Campus on this.

*Happy Valentine's Day
Lane and Sarita*

District Representatives

Northern

Susan Burk
Leslie Tourigny

Northwest

Laura Wimmer

Southeast

Tammie
Mullins-Rice

Southwest

Anita Aymer

Membership

The Virginia Women's Conference, hosted by Senator Mark R. Warner, was held on October 30th at Old Dominion University in Norfolk. The conference provided a venue for Virginia women to meet, network, hear from experts on a variety of important topics, and gather resources from federal, state, and local agencies. Tiffany Sanchez from National presented a workshop-AAUW Work Smart: Salary Negotiation. Attendees who stopped by our AAUW table received an AAUW screen cleaner sheet and a Payday candy bar. They both were a hit and went fast as over 45 attendees signed our information log sheets. Senator Warner's office provided a link to the workshops for all to enjoy. Please click on the link and see what was happening at the Virginia Women's Conference: www.youtube.com/@viriniawomensconference9993.

AAUW of Virginia had a wonderful celebration to start 2024 with the news that our membership count has increased with renewals and/or new memberships. Branches can earn one AAUW-National membership for every two new memberships, with a max of three freebies, during FY24. The free AAUW-National memberships will be applied for FY25 renewals. Our branches have been having success with the Shape the Future opportunity to join with a 50% discount for National dues. The second **Ms.** Magazine -Winter 2024 has been mailed! I hope you signed up to receive the four quarterly issues. Please reference your email from AAUW-National concerning your renewal or new membership. There is a link to sign up for the Ms. Magazine free offer. The Community Hub feature, *Export State Roster*, has been updated/simplified to better keep you informed of your branch's membership status. Please reference AAUW Membership Matters from Katrina Sun Breese's email on December 28, 2023, for further clarification.

Wishing everyone a successful New Year!

*Laura Browning Greenfield
VP Membership and
Branch Development*

THE AAUW PROGRAM

The Branch Impact Survey completed by branch presidents, ended on January 8th. The survey is now integrated with the *Five Star Program*. Branch presidents' survey responses will be reviewed by AAUW-National for the Five-Star Recognition Program. AAUW National will review survey responses and share how many stars each branch attained at the end of the survey period.

Any inquiries concerning submitted surveys should be directed to Tremayne Parquet, Deputy Director of Advancement at parquett@aauw.org.

We are anxiously waiting to hear how many of our 23 branches have earned Star Recognition! We have fingers crossed for 23/23!!

Laura Browning Greenfield
VP Membership and Branch Development



Finance Report



The Board modified the 2023-2024 budget in December 2023. There were two expense line items added. Under Miscellaneous, the Board added a line item for AAUW Screen Wipes for \$295, and under Statewide Meetings the Board added Atlantic Regional Conference for \$500 and also added an income line item for AAUW Screen Wipe reimbursement. As of December 31, 2023, the Board received \$59 as reimbursement; total expenses were \$6,175.37 and total actual income was \$11,289. [Note: In January we received an additional \$212 as reimbursement for the AAUW Screen wipes.]

Virginia Kress
Treasurer



ARE YOU TEED UP
TO VOTE IN THE NEXT AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION?
IF YOU HAVE UNSUBSCRIBED TO EMAILS, PLEASE
CONSIDER RE-SUBSCRIBING TO RECEIVE
AN E-BALLOT.



"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

College and University Partners



The C/U chairs are working on two projects at present. The first is a brief survey of branch presidents regarding C/U activities. We plan to administer the survey in early February and hope that presidents will respond quickly. The survey should require no more than a few minutes to complete. Responses will help us create a more accurate picture of activities across the state, as well as assist in generating recommendations for the AAUW-VA Board to consider in future planning.

Secondly, we are working to update an earlier publication suggesting ways for branches to engage with higher education institutions. The publication will also describe potential benefits to AAUW student members. Providing students with information about issues important to the work of AAUW, and potentially creating future members, is key to our continued success.

We should note the increase in AAUW College/University Partners' annual dues from \$175 to \$250. Dues and benefits to Partner institutions are managed by AAUW, rather than the state boards. We are pleased to offer any assistance to individual branches, but the actual enrollment of a new College/University Partner must be completed at the National level. Again, we will do all we can to help.

*Barbara Woodlee/Marsha Melkonian
C/U Chairs*

Virginia College/
University Partners

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

*"There's more to life than being a passenger."
- Amelia Earhart*

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)

On January 17th, we had the opportunity to meet via Zoom with several DEIB branch representatives and presidents to bring awareness of **microaggressions** and how these simple slights are major transgressions that interfere with the development of an inclusive association culture. **Microaggressions** are those often-commonplace verbal and nonverbal slights, snubs, or transgressions that communicate hostile or negative messages to targeted persons based solely on their marginalized group affiliation. We conducted a presentation and discussed the wide range of ways these slights can occur – from a casual statement to staying silent. The session provided practical techniques to use when **microaggressions** occur and how to respond. The training emphasized the common engagement and use of **microaggressions**, how to recognize the racist act and ways to correct the wrongdoing. As we look forward to attending our state conference in April and seeing many of you in person, we are also excited that we will have the opportunity to share some thoughts and activities regarding DEIB during our time together.

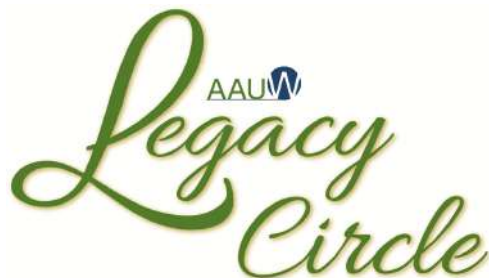
Many branches are actively involved in DEIB-related activities. It is our goal to provide support and encouragement so we can foster spaces where all members are afforded a sense of belonging through inclusivity and accessibility. We continue to encourage members and branches to use the resources and tools on the national and state websites for education and training as it is our responsibility as a collective to move the social justice needle.

*Erica Brown-Meredith/Meg Tuccillo
DEIB Co-Vice Presidents*

*Show a Little
Love!*

February, the month of valentines, cupids and hearts, is a wonderful time for showing a little love for AAUW! One way is to make a planned gift to AAUW in your will or trust, naming AAUW as a beneficiary or recipient of an IRA or bank account...or via other means. This is a gift for the future, no need to turn to your checkbook or credit card right now! You don't need to be wealthy to do this and every gift, no matter its size, is deeply appreciated. I made my own planned gift back in 2014, after my husband's death, because I realized how much AAUW meant to me...in terms of what I had gained from AAUW in leadership skills and experiences and how large a part of my life it had been since joining in 1971. I also was sure that AAUW would work hard for future generations of women and girls. I wanted my gift to reflect the hours I had given to AAUW and the circle of supporting friends I had gained, too. In making a planned gift to AAUW you will be joining the current 45 Virginia AAUW members and me in the AAUW Legacy Circle.

I will be happy to talk to you about making a planned gift to AAUW. Please check out the following resources: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>. Please note that AAUW has a four-star rating on Charity Navigator.

The logo for the AAUW Legacy Circle. It features the AAUW logo (the letters 'AAUW' in a blue circle) positioned above the words 'Legacy Circle' which are written in a large, elegant, green cursive font.

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

Branches in Action

The **Alexandria Branch** has had a busy fall session. Members marched in the annual Scottish Walk Parade and held signs representing famous suffragists and Alexandria women of achievement. Members donated toys to the domestic violence shelter and to the Northern Virginia Community College food pantry and the bookstore so that struggling students could afford books. Members visited the Lyceum, Alexandria's history museum, and were taught about the biracial group of women who founded Alexandria, now Inova, Hospital. Branch members saw "Wednesdays in Mississippi" about the AAUW women who fought in 1964 for equal rights in Mississippi. Members met with the Director of K-12 Programs at the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus and learned of the plans for Alexandria and surrounding cities. Members also met with Alexandria's new superintendent of education and learned about various educational challenges and changes occurring. The holiday lunch at the Belle Haven Country Club was delicious, and featured a poetry reading by Alexandria Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam. The mystery, diversity, Great Decisions, gourmet, and opera groups also met.

*Diane Schrier
President*

The **Arlington Branch** members had a busy fall learning the basics of ChatGPT in September. (It's a chatbot to open an AI program that users can use to write on topics after asking a series of questions. The software gathers the information based on the questions. Teachers and professors are now on the alert because students can use it to write essays and research papers.) The presentation was interesting, and the misuse of AI was discussed. Members learned about the challenges facing women immigrants in October and enjoyed a presentation by Mark Massey of the ENIAC Programmers Project about the six women who programmed the world's first modern computer. At the annual holiday luncheon, guest speaker Roopal Mehta Saran, director of the non-profit English Empowerment Center, described the work she and her staff were doing to help adults, mostly women, to learn English to better their employment opportunities.

In January, the Arlington Historical Society presented its Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington Project. A genealogy expert will be the featured February speaker.

Arlington Branch continued...

In March, former State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple will speak on issues affecting women in the General Assembly. A chef from Kitchen of Purpose, an Arlington non-profit that focuses on bilingual culinary training, spoke to the Arlington Community High School lunch bunch in December. This winter the lunch discussion topics will focus on scholarship opportunities and personal money management. The branch discussion group continues with varied interesting books: "Striptease" by Carl Hiaasen, "Ancestor Trouble: A Reckoning and Reconciliation" by Maud Newton, and "Who Raised Our Nation" by Cokie Roberts.

*Terry Bratt
President*

Since 2020, the **Falls Church Area Branch** has been writing non-partisan postcards for Reclaim Our Vote (ROV). This activity supports AAUW's policy of vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights. The branch wrote 2,198 postcards for the VA 2023 election, bringing the total to 20,588. In 2024, diversity and equity are themes for branch winter programs. The branch will have a presentation from local librarians and coauthors on the topic of desegregation in Northern Virginia libraries. Three local women entrepreneurs who are pursuing their purpose and passion are also on the agenda.

December ended with three fundraisers in Falls Church. The branch entered the Village Preservation and Improvement Society Holiday Tree Fest where our tree was selected as the best theme tree which was children's literature. Later in the month members had two pop-up sales, one for books (of course) and a jewelry and accessory sale just in time for the holidays. All funds will go to the branch's education fund which supports local scholarships and special projects. Members look forward to celebrating 2024 scholarships and special project winners in the spring.

*Sharon Zackula/Aida Uribe Loomis
Co-Presidents*

In September, the **Harrisonburg Branch** visited Duck Run Cemetery, part of a 113-acre former dairy farm in Rockingham County. The cemetery is dedicated to 100% green burials and offers cemetery lot options and scattering gardens for cremains. Green burial requirements remove vaults and non-biodegradable materials from the burial. This is Virginia's first natural burial ground that is certified. The Zoom discussion group addressed banned books in September and "Educated: A Memoir" by Tara Westover in October.

In October, branch members met to hear Leah Hackman's presentation on immigrant population issues. She is with the New Bridges Immigration Resource Center in Harrisonburg. Members met for a casual lunch at Cross Keys Vineyard in November. The topic for the branch discussion group in November was hate groups, based on the Southern Poverty Law Center's 2022 report entitled, "The Year in Hate and Extremism."

The traditional December holiday tea and brunch was held at Susan Wheaton's home. Her husband, Randall, accompanied members on the piano as they sang Christmas carols. Donations went to the area food bank and the immigrant women at New Bridges.

A presentation by Dr. Kevin Pallister, a political science professor at Bridgewater College, addressed "Understanding Dictatorships" at the January program.

The branch has two new members: Janet Loker and Carmenza Kline. Member Patti Warner reported that she has arranged a \$1,000 scholarship to go to a female student at Blue Ridge Community College who has an associate degree and will be transferring to James Madison University in the fall. This is in addition to a \$1,000 scholarship the branch awards annually to a young woman high school graduate from a city or county school, who has been accepted to a university.

Rosemarie Palmer
Publicity Chair & Webmaster

The **McLean Area Branch** holiday luncheon speaker was retiring State Senator Janet Howell, allowing members to honor and thank her for the immense work she has done to promote education, health and equality for women and girls in Virginia. The longest-serving female VA senator and the first woman to chair the powerful Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, she has been an influential leader. What an enthusiastic sense of humor she has, too!

The branch continues its community impact commitment with Graham Road Elementary School, a Title 1 school. Members provide tutoring, mentoring and

McLean Area Branch continued...

contributing where needed, and will help build a vegetable garden this spring. Thanks to VA AAUW for the mini-grant to help with this project.

The branch-endowed AAUW Funds went to four women this year: two PhD Fellowship awardees (one American, one International), one Community Action grantee, and one Career Development grantee. The branch also gave scholarships to women returning to college at Trinity Washington and Bennett College (a women's HBCU).

Caroline Pickens
Co-Program Vice President

The **Northern District** branches are looking forward to their spring meeting on March 9th, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library in Alexandria. Just in time for the cherry blossom season in Washington, DC, the speaker will be Diana Parsell, a McLean Area Branch member and writer. Her presentation will be based on her book, "Eliza Scidmore: The Trailblazing Journalist Behind Washington's Cherry Trees." As Diana's book reveals, Scidmore was an extraordinary journalist and travel writer who started as a newspaper correspondent in Gilded Age Washington in the 1870s. She wrote authoritative books on Alaska, Japan, Java, China, and India; was an activist in the burgeoning U.S. conservation movement in association with figures like John Muir; and was the most influential female at the early National Geographic, as the first woman elected to the board (in 1892) and to publish photographs in the magazine. In 1920, Scidmore became an AAUW member.

Leslie Tourigny
Northern District Co-Representative

The **Reston-Herndon Area Branch** is kicking off the new year with loads of great programs and activities. Lobby Day at the state level is super important to us, and we will have a showing at those events! Janine Greenwood, one of our state public policy co-chairs, and Shyamali Hauth, who is our branch public policy chair, are advocating attendance!

The branch's education committee prepared recommendations for the branch. The branch focused on human trafficking awareness at its February program and is expanding learning about DEI in partnership with the League of Women Voters and separately George Mason University.

Members have fun events in store like a tea social and a visit to Udvar Hazy Air & Space Museum to learn about women aviators.

Reston-Herndon Area continued...
women aviators.

*Cyndi Shanahan
Administrator*

In November, the **Smith Mountain Branch** hosted over 250 women at the annual fundraiser. The theme for this year's event was "Fall Fashion 'Friendsy' - Be Simply the Best!" The goal of this event was to raise funds to support educational equity for women and girls in the community. The proceeds generated from the event will provide scholarships for women continuing their post-secondary education, summer science camp scholarships for elementary school girls, a literacy project, and various other programs designed to support educational advancement for women and girls in the tri-county area surrounding Smith Mountain Lake. The program included a live fashion show featuring 10 models, a buffet luncheon, the ever-popular silent auction, a photo booth, door prizes, and a wine bar with hand-decorated wine glasses available for purchase. The showcased fashions, modeled by branch members, took center stage in a fashion show hosted by the mother/daughter owners of Roanoke's The Bird Cage and Weekend by tbc. Through the dedicated efforts of committee heads and numerous branch members, support from more than 40 local community sponsors, and the enthusiastic attendance of members, friends and guests, the event was hailed as a tremendous success.

*Ann Johnson/Margee Kauffman
Newsletter Co-Chairs*

The **Southeast District** held its first in-person district meeting on October 21st in Virginia Beach. All the branches were represented except Newport News, with 22 members attending. Members had one guest from the Women's Conference signup sheet. The speaker was Kathryn Haines, Health Equity Manager for Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. She spoke on the



implicit bias in maternal health for women of color. Members were all encouraged to act from a list of suggested ideas.

State Co-VP for Public Policy Denise Murden and State VP for Membership Laura Greenfield provided updates.

The spring district meeting is scheduled for February 24th at WHRO in Norfolk. The speakers will be Sylvia Weinstein Craft and Lisa D. Spiller, authors of "Platinum Rules for Enjoying Life." This meeting will be co-sponsored by the Girl Scout Council of Colonial

Southeast District continued...
Coast who will provide desserts for refreshments.

*Tammie Mullins-Rice
Southeast District Representative*

The **Southwest District** meeting was held in Roanoke in October and was well attended by the four SW branches. All presidents were in attendance: Betsy DeWeese, Smith Mountain; Cacky Wright, Roanoke Valley; Anitra Webster, Lynchburg; and Alma Watson, Wytheville.

Pidge Morgan spoke about her 20+ years volunteering in Tanzania for a non-government organization. Her efforts helped educate young girls and improve health conditions.

Southwest District members are now focusing on the April State Conference in Lynchburg. Looking forward to a magnificent event.

*Anita Aymer
Southwest District Representative*



Photo L to R:
Alma Watson, Anitra Webster, Pidge Morgan, Anita Aymer, Cacky Wright, Betsy DeWeese

Members of the **Springfield-Annandale Branch** celebrated the holiday season on December 6th at The Tea with Mrs. B Tearoom in Falls Church. A lovely time was had by all as we sampled sweets and savories, were educated about the history of teas and blends and learned about the role of tea during the time that Mary Todd Lincoln (a re-enactor who was our special guest) was in the White House.

The branch welcomed the New Year with a program on financial security for women via Zoom on January 18th. Speakers were Michelle Massey of Merrill Lynch and Sylvia Auton, author of "Grandma Sylvia's Guide to the Stock Market."

*Cathleen Boivin
Co-President*

It was a busy autumn for the **Vienna Area Branch**. A successful open house at which new members were welcomed was followed by a Voter Rights in Virginia program. Another meeting on international study abroad/youth ambassador opportunities for teens featured a speaker from the U.S. State Department. It was a packed house! The December holiday luncheon was also a success with members making generous donations to Artemis House, a local women's shelter. Members looked forward to the January program focusing on issues surrounding artificial intelligence. Happy New Year to all!

*Susan Pauly
Co-President*

The **Virginia Beach Branch** had an active fall with great participation and stimulating speakers. In October, the branch hosted the Southeast District meeting and in November welcomed the Co-VP for Public Policy for AAUW-VA Denise Murden. The well-attended festive December luncheon was punctuated by a raffle for themed baskets. The proceeds go to the Linda Todd Scholarship for women returning to college. January welcomed James Shull with UpVote Virginia to discuss fair and accessible elections and proposed changes, such as ranked-choice voting. In February, the branch will host the Southeast District again, co-sponsoring with the Girl Scouts and welcoming the authors of "Platinum Rules for Enjoying Life." Members will attend the yearly AAUW Funds fundraiser at the Little Theater. The membership continues to get together in small groups to enjoy Movie Sisters in person and online, watching and discussing movies produced/written/directed by or starring women. In addition, the two book groups remain active.



*Carole Szetela
VP Programming*

AAUW-Virginia Board 2024 Calendar



February:

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

March:

- 8th - International Women's Day (2024 theme: DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality). Public Policy Co-VP.
- 8th - Deadline to submit ads for AAUW-VA Conference. Conference Chair.
- 9th - 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Northern District meeting. Northern District Reps.
- 10th - General Assembly ends. Public Policy Co-VP.
- 13th - Deadline to register for AAUW-VA Conference. Conference Chair.
- 13th - Deadline to reserve hotel room @ special rate for AAUW-VA Conference. Conference Chair.
- 15th - Deadline for additional nominees for state officers. Nominating Committee.

Continued on page 11...

Calendar Continued...

30th - Deadline for members to verify email address in Community Hub. Voting/Elections Chair.

April:

4th - Post-General Assembly AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting. Public Policy Co-VP.

12th - AAUW-VA State Conference, optional day, (Lynchburg). Conference Chair.

13th - AAUW-VA State Conference, (Lynchburg). Conference Chair.

15th - Members as of this date are eligible to vote in the AAUW-VA election. Voting/Elections Chair.

May:

4th - (Virtual) Annual Business Meeting.

15th - Deadline for *Vision* articles – Summer. *Vision* Copy Editor.

June:

1st - Current branch presidents enter 2024 - 25 branch officers in Hub before July 1st. President/Administrator.

1st - AAUW-VA voting results reported to the recording secretary. Voting & Elections Chair.

1st - Voting results reported to the board. Voting & Elections Chair.

15th - *Vision* distributed. Communications VP.

30th - Last date for current branch presidents to enter 2024-25 branch officers in Hub. President/Administrator.

30th - Reports and receipts for mini-grant projects due to AAUW-VA VP of Finance. College/University Reps.

AAUW-VA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2024

President

Lane Stone

Recording Secretary

Laura Southall

Southeast District

Tammie Mullins-Rice

Administrator

Sarita McCoy Gregory

AAUW Funds Chair

Ann Johnson

Southwest District

Anita Aymer

VP for Program

Nadine James

College/University Co-Chairs

Barbara Woodlee

Marsha Melkonian

NON-BOARD POSITIONS

VP for Membership

Laura Browning Greenfield

Bylaws and Resolutions Chair

Suzanne Rothwell

Virginia *Vision* Copy Editor

Mary Anne Graham

VP for Finance

Virginia Kress

DISTRICT

REPRESENTATIVES

(Nominating Committee)

Web Manager

Patsy Quick

***Vision* Layout Editor**

Tess Evans

Co-VPs for Public Policy

Janine Greenwood

Denise Murden

Northern District

Susan Burk

Leslie Tourigny

Technology/Social Media

Manager

Tess Evans

VP for Communications

Dianne Mero

Northwest District

Laura Wimmer

Voting and Elections

Committee Chair

Sandy Lawrence

Co-VPs for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Meg Tuccillo

Erica Brown-Meredith

2024 AAUW-VA Branch Presidents/Administrators

Alexandria

Sylvia Linke
Diane Schrier

Arlington

Theresa Bratt

Fairfax City

Dianne Blais

Falls Church Area

Aida Loomis
Sharon Zackula

Greater Manassas

Hannah Senft

Greater Richmond

Laura Wimmer

Hampton

Joan Jenkins
Carolyn Stewart

Harrisonburg

Laura Zarrugh

Lynchburg

Anitra Webster
Gwen Solyom

McLean Area

Barbara Zamora-Appel

Mt. Vernon

Patsy Quick

Newport News

Candice Byrd

Norfolk

Wilma Robinson

Portsmouth

Phyllis Shannon

Reston-Herndon

Judy Helmich
Cyndi Shanahan

Roanoke Valley

Cacky Wright
Peggy Shifflett

Smith Mountain

Betsy DeWeese

Springfield-Annandale

Cathleen Boivin
Ann Sauberman

Vienna Area

Susan Pauly
Candace Strawn

Virginia Beach

Jeanette Olson
Maria Kronenburg

Winchester

Patricia Kadel

Woodbridge

Irene Cromer

Wytheville

Alma Watson



How to Contact Branch Leaders

- Visit individual branch websites
- Branch websites are all different and contact information may be found in several places:

1. On the Menu Bar
2. "Contact Us" or "About Us"
3. On the Side Bar
4. 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. You will receive a response quickly.

Contact Information

AAUW National Office: 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

www.aauw.org

connect@aauw.org

800/326-AAUW (2289) 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

202/785-7700 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fax: 202/872-1425

TDD: 202/785-7777

AAUW of Virginia: aauw-va.aauw.net

Virginia General Assembly: viriniageneralassembly.gov

AAUW-VA State Conference

Schedule

Friday, April 12th (Pre-conference)

• Arrive early and enjoy an afternoon of touring Lynchburg. Meet in the lobby at 2:00 pm to set up carpools.

• 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Conference check-in in the lobby

• Dinner on your own Three restaurants will be available for group reservations

• 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Hospitality Suite open

• 7:30 pm Back to hotel for fun

Saturday, April 13th

• 8:30 am - 9:15 am Conference check-in/vendor tables in the lobby

• 9:30 am Opening, Welcome, & Keynote Speaker Dr. Alison Morrison Shetlar
President of the University of Lynchburg
Courageous Leaders

• 10:30 am Ten Minute Toolkits

• 11:30 am Buffet Lunch/Vendor Tables

• 12:15 pm New Voices - Panel of College Women

• 1:00 pm Meghan Kissell
AAUW Senior Director of Policy & Membership Advocacy
Connection & Courage

• 2:00 pm Break/Vendor Tables

• 2:45 pm Meet and Greet Your State Board
Commitment to Our Branches

• 3:45 pm Announcements & District Meetings

• 4:30 pm Adjourn

• Dine around suggestions

• 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Hospitality Suite



Keynote Speaker

On August 1, 2020, **Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar** became the 11th president of the University of Lynchburg in Lynchburg, Virginia. In the last three years, under President Morrison-Shetlar's leadership, the university has developed a strategic plan with three areas of distinction — leadership development; innovation and collaboration; and diversity, equity, and inclusion — and a comprehensive campaign focused on endowed scholarships, programmatic support, and facilities projects. The university has been undergoing strategic reorganization to enhance the student experience. It has also increased the marketing of the university outside of Virginia to grow enrollment and engagement with the community to provide students with the experiential learning opportunities they deserve. Morrison-Shetlar's often-used phrase is, "At the University of Lynchburg, we provide the educational environment where everyone — students, faculty, and staff — can meet their maximum potential and achieve their goals and dreams."



Dr. Morrison-Shetlar has experience working at private and public institutions in the U.S. Upon coming to the U.S. in 1993, she served Wesleyan University in Connecticut (adjunct faculty), Georgia Southern University (associate professor of biology and director of professional development), the University of Central Florida (director of faculty development, professor of biology, vice provost and dean of undergraduate studies), Elon University (dean of arts and sciences) and most recently, Western Carolina University, where she served as provost for 3.5 years, vice president for development and alumni engagement (9 months) and interim chancellor (18 months).

Dr. Morrison-Shetlar brings a wealth of international experience to the presidential post. A native of Scotland, she earned a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry and a doctorate in biomedical science from Dundee College of Technology (now Abertay University). She was the founding chair of the molecular biology unit at the Max Planck Institute in Dortmund, Germany, and teacher-scholar at Bochum University in Bochum, Germany and the Kenney Institute of Rheumatology in London.



Ten Minute Toolkits

You've heard of Ted Talks? Tess Talks? Teddy Talks? Like those, our Ten-Minute Toolkits will be brief, brilliant and guaranteed to blow you away. Topics are being added – here are just three examples:



Cybersecurity for branches



Racial Microaggressions



Friday Preconference Events

1. Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum
<https://www.annespencermuseum.org>

The spokesperson for the Executive Director said that the tour is not mobility friendly although the website says the tour is accessible for the mobility impaired. The tour is not navigable with a wheelchair. Those using a cane or walker can tour the first floor of the house and some of the garden.

The Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum is the former home of renowned Harlem Renaissance poet Anne Spencer and is named a Virginia Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places. With up to 95% of the original house and cottage furnishings still in place today, it is considered one of the most intact house museums in the United States. Anne Spencer's garden is also the only known restored garden of an African American in the United States. Anne Spencer was a poet, civil rights leader, advocate and librarian. Her home and garden served as a gathering place for leading African Americans such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes and Martin Luther King, Jr.

2. Point of Honor House and Grounds
<https://www.pointofhonor.org/>

Accessibility per website: The main house is not ADA accessible due to steps. The gardens have irregular terrain and comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

When Point of Honor was given its distinctive name in the early 1800s, it was a 740-acre plantation that extended along the James River from Blackwater Creek to present-day Randolph College. Over the years, the plantation was divided and sold many times. In the late 20th century, a total of 4.5 acres were acquired one lot at a time. Today they are owned for public benefit by Point of Honor, Inc. and the City of Lynchburg.

3. Maier Museum of Art
<https://maiermuseum.org>

Free admission. Accessibility per the website: The museum is on one floor and is wheelchair accessible. No accessible restroom.

Upcoming Exhibition:
 Kat Owens: Entangled and Ingested
 Dr. Kat Owens is a plastic pollution researcher, artist and activist. She is a National Geographic Explorer, a Fulbright Nehru fellow and a Professor at the University of Hartford in Connecticut.



Hotel Information

Hilton Garden Inn

4025 Wards Road
Lynchburg, VA 24502

The rate for rooms booked under the AAUW-VA block is \$139.00 plus tax per night.

The room rate includes breakfast.

**Room rates are subject to the following taxes:
\$1.00 Occupancy Tax, 6.5% City Sales Tax, 5.3% State Sales Tax.**

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 434-239-3006 or here: <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/>. Please use the group code **AAW** to ensure you receive the block rate.

When booking online, enter the code in the Group Code tab under Special Rate Codes.

The cut-off date to book rooms at the discounted rate is 03/13/24.



AAUW Speaker

Meghan Kissell is the Senior Director of Policy and Membership Advocacy at AAUW. She leads AAUW’s non-partisan and mission-driven public policy at the federal level and supports the grassroots advocacy work of AAUW’s membership network.



Meghan has more than 20 years of nonprofit policy and issue developing and implementing targeted social impact strategies designed to engage key stakeholders and policy makers to advocate for positive policy outcomes.

Prior to joining AAUW, Meghan worked on state and local health policy with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and led efforts to expand LGBTQ equality in the Deep South with the Human Rights Campaign. She also worked for the Conservation Lands Foundation to help lead local and national campaigns in the Western United States resulting in the successful protection of more than 5 million acres of public land. She was also previously AAUW’s Field Director, supporting local advocacy engagement and volunteer get out the vote efforts.

Meghan has a Master’s degree in Social Work with a focus on community organizing from Howard University and a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania.

SOURCE: <https://www.aauw.org/about/leadership/>

Board Meet and Greet

Have you ever wondered about the members of the State Board? Do you have questions or concerns you would like to voice with state board members? Do you have ideas you want to share? Have you wanted to join the board yourself, or wanted to know what the positions involve? During Table Visits with Board Members you can ask your questions or voice your concerns. Board Members will be visiting all the tables at the conference.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller

AAUW-VA Conference - April 12 - 13, 2024

Registration Form

Hilton Garden Inn

4025 Wards Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502



Follow this link to register for the conference online: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/conference-2/>

Name: _____
 First **Last**

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

Email: _____

Branch: _____

Preferred name for badge: _____

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

First-time Attendee: _____ **Presenter:** _____ **Past State President:** _____

Current State Board Member: _____ **Current Branch President:** _____ **Guest:** _____

Conference Registration: includes buffet lunch/break

Member postmarked by March 13, 2024 \$75 _____

Non-member postmarked by March 13, 2024 \$90 _____

All registrations postmarked after March 13, 2024 \$100 _____

Optional tours: all tours meet in the hotel lobby Friday at 2:00 P.M. to set up carpools.

1. Maier Museum of Art <https://maiermuseum.org> **FREE**

2. Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum
<https://www.annespencermuseum.org> **\$10** _____

3. Point of Honor House and Grounds
<https://www.pointofhonor.org/> **\$10** _____

TOTAL: _____

No refunds after April 1, 2024

Paypal ONLINE or send check payable to AAUW-VA to:
Marsha Melkonian, 150 Clearcreek Court, Moneta, VA 24121
Attn: AAUW 2024 Conference

Questions: Contact Anita Aymer 276-620-4547 or alaymer2010@gmail.com

Bylaws & Resolutions

AAUW Open Membership Proposal

In January, AAUW announced proposed amendments to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would open membership to “. . .any individual who supports AAUW’s purpose of advancing equity for women and girls.”

Every AAUW member **had** the right to comment on this proposed change to the bylaws and to vote on the proposal. *As a member of AAUW, your voice and your vote count. AAUW-VA members are encouraged to review and vote on this proposal. The comment period has closed.*

To read AAUW’s rationale for this change and review the proposed amendments - go to **PROPOSAL** here <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2024-aauw-proposed-bylaws-changes/>. To access resource material and the toolkit for branch discussion of the proposal, go to **OPEN MEMBERSHIP TOOLKIT** here <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/open-membership-toolkit/>.

- April 3 - Voting opens (online voting is encouraged)
- May 15 - Online voting ends at noon EST, and results will be announced online

Call for Proposed State Bylaws Amendments and Proposed Resolutions

A call for the submission of proposed AAUW of Virginia Bylaw amendments and resolutions to be considered at the AAUW of Virginia Annual Business Meeting on May 4, 2024, was published in the Fall Virginia Vision, with a deadline of December 1. No submissions were received.

AAUW-VA Board Approves Amendments to the Board of Directors Handbook

At its January 3, 2024, meeting, the Board approved amendments to the Board of Directors Handbook. The amendments deleted the corresponding secretary’s job description as no longer needed, amended the recording secretary’s job description and made related changes to the bylaws and resolutions chair job description. In particular, the amendments simplified and updated the recording secretary’s job description to be consistent with the position’s current responsibilities, the AAUW-VA Bylaws and other Handbook requirements for directors.

Amendments to the Handbook do not require membership approval as the Handbook is to provide detailed guidance regarding Board responsibilities.

*Suzanne Rothwell
Bylaws and Resolutions Chair*

MAY THE CHOICE BE WITH YOU FOR VP FOR PUBLIC POLICY

In May, we’ll vote for the next AAUW-VA board president, and vice presidents for Program, Public Policy, and Communications.

As of yet, we do not have a nominee for VP for Public Policy. Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden have done a fantastic job, but their terms are ending. Please consider joining your state board in this position, either alone or with another member, so that we can continue our advocacy work advancing equity for women and girls and position ourselves to respond robustly to legislation affecting the physical and fiscal lives of women and girls. We are also forming a statewide public policy committee to lighten the load for the member(s) who are elected to this position. Contact Tammie Mullins-Rice at tammieaauw@gmail.com if you alone or with another member would like to be candidate/s for VP for Public Policy. In addition, anyone interested in serving on the committee should email lanestoneaauwva@gmail.com.

Public Policy

History was made in the Virginia General Assembly in its opening moments with the most diverse and newest membership in the centuries of America's oldest legislative body. Fifty-two of the 140 members are African American, Asian, Hispanic, or multiracial. Over one-third of the members are women. Thirty-seven members have never served in the General Assembly.

By the time this edition of the Vision is distributed, AAUW-VA will have had its in-person Lobby Day on January 31st, preceded by its Women Lawmakers Reception the evening before. Special thanks to the Greater Richmond Branch members for their amazing work catering for the reception. We will have a virtual lobby day on February 28th, and we hope all members will participate. Watch your inbox for details and reach out to your legislators on our important political priorities.

Some key bills that have been filed are:

Reproductive Rights/Maternal Health

- Constitutional amendment on reproductive freedom
- Protection from searches of menstrual data
- Prohibition of extradition to other states for violation of their laws
- Right to contraception
- Implicit bias training requirements

Economic Security/Workplace Equity

- Paid family and medical leave
- Paid sick days
- Minimum wage increase
- Childcare review
- Salary history ban

Education

- Title IX/sexual harassment training
- Studies on teacher compensation and retention
- K-12 school funding formula

LGBTQ+

- Constitutional amendment for the right to marry
- Right to gender-affirming care

Voting Rights

- Constitutional amendment on voting rights

Issue briefing papers can be found here:

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t0LQU80E0C5y_eroidKw_SZxicPYziPR



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

“The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it.” - Chief Joseph

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