



**2024 AAUW of Virginia Conference**  
**Hilton Garden Inn, Lynchburg**

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March 1, 2024

Dear AAUW Virginia Members,

Welcome to the AAUW of Virginia 2024 Conference! I hope this gathering finds you healthy, happy, and ready to enjoy your valuable time together.

First, please accept my sincere gratitude for the great work you've done over the years to build a better future for women and girls. AAUW of Virginia has played such an important role and contributed so much throughout the organization's history, and I'm heartened to see you are as strong and vibrant as ever!

I also want to thank you for your support during the first two years of my role as CEO of AAUW. As I enter my third year, I am energized by the Courage, Connection, and Commitment of our dedicated members.

Despite the persistent challenges which impede progress for women across the country, AAUW remains undeterred. A century after the Equal Rights Amendment was introduced in Congress, we still experience discrimination, which threatens women's health, opportunities, and economic equity. Women hold two-thirds of the U.S. student loan debt. Wage gaps, unequal and unaffordable healthcare access, and disproportionate social burdens remain significant challenges, especially for women and girls of color, who face compounded disadvantages.

In 2023, we raised our voices for gender equity and translated that advocacy into real, tangible progress. AAUW and our members buzzed with activity; we sent thousands of messages to legislators, demanding support for fair pay, standing up for stronger paid leave policies, and fighting for safe, equitable school environments for all students. On Capitol Hill, our re-energized Lobby Corps members, supporters, and partners visited congressional office after congressional office to champion legislative change for women and girls.

Your unwavering commitment to action exemplifies the AAUW ethos, ensuring we move steadily towards a more equitable future for all. The path ahead may hold obstacles—but *together*, we stand ready to meet them. We remain steadfast in our mission, grounded in research and evidence-based strategies, and supported by a community of passionate advocates, donors, and members like you.

I hope that this gathering will be a celebration of our victories and a call to action for tackling the challenges we still face. By working together, with a unified voice, I am confident we will continue making progress. Thank you for being an active and dedicated AAUW member and a passionate advocate for women and girls. I'm happy you're in attendance, and I look forward to our journey together toward our common goal of equity for all.

With deepest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gloria Blackwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gloria L. Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer  
AAUW



Dear American Association of University Women:

Welcome to Lynchburg! On behalf of the residents of our great city, we are pleased and honored to host you.

Lynchburg has been recently recognized as one of the Best College Towns, Top Adventure Towns, and as one of the Souths Best Cities on the Rise. When you visit, we know you'll see why!

We invite you to make LYH your home away from home and learn just why we love this City so much. Visit our locally owned eateries and coffee shops, walk or bike on the Blackwater Creek Trail, or stick around for the weekend to spend Saturday morning at the Community Market, one of the oldest continually operating farmers markets in the country

You can find everything you need to take advantage of the full LYH experience on our website at [lynchburgvirginia.com](http://lynchburgvirginia.com), including things to do, maps, lists of restaurants and shops, attractions and more. Visit [lyhlovesyou.com](http://lyhlovesyou.com) to learn all about the people and businesses that call Lynchburg home. Follow us @lynchburgva and tag #lyhlovesyou to share your adventures.

Again, welcome to City of Lynchburg! We are so happy that you are here.

Sincerely,

  
Stephanie T. Reed  
Mayor

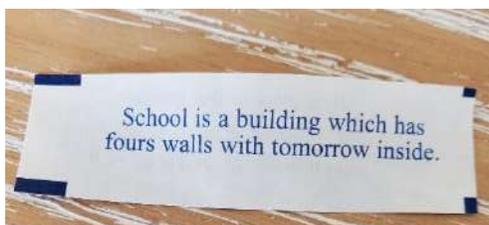
900 Church Street  
Lynchburg, VA 24504

# Welcome To Lynchburg!



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Welcome to Lynchburg! Thanks to the hard work of the local planning committee, led by Anita Aymer, we are guaranteed to have a great weekend together.



The universe loves AAUW – we know because she sent Lane a sign last night. Ok, not really a sign. It was a fortune cookie. I love these moments of clarity and focus, don't you? This is us.

We thought we would continue our theme of Courage. Connection. Commitment. with more C words. 2023-2024 has been a year of *contrasts*. We have surfed between *change*, with brand new initiatives, like Branch Essentials for branch leader orientation. And *continuity* when it comes to advocating for gender equity and economic security. Both c's have been a *challenge*.

NAACP has an ad that reads, "Advocacy has one direction, forward." Uh, can we still say that? Our most personal human right was stolen by the Supreme Court in 2022. That's not forward. At our successful Lobby Day and Virtual Lobby Day, which Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden organized, AAUW members spoke truth to power. It was an honor to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you. This is our 99<sup>th</sup> year of advocating for the well-being of women and girls. As we prepare for our 100<sup>th</sup> year, let's recommit ourselves to realizing a world of equity for all.

For your steadfast support, our thanks go to the AAUW-VA board and all of you branch leaders!

Lane Stone, President  
Sarita Gregory, Administrator

# 2024 STATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS

## Hosted by the Southwest District Branches

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Conference Committee Chair:	Anita Aymer, Southwest District Representative (Wytheville Branch)
Conference Program Chair:	Nadine James, AAUW-VA VP for Program (Reston-Herndon Area Branch and Vienna Area Branch)
Name Tags:	Patricia Austin, Janie Hardin, Alison Pollard (Wytheville Branch)
Registration:	Lynchburg Branch
Program Book:	Anita Aymer, (Wytheville Branch); Mary Anne Graham, Copy Editor, (McLean Branch and Winchester Branch); Patsy Quick, Layout Editor (Mount Vernon Branch)
Treasurer:	Marsha Melkonian (Smith Mountain Branch)
Welcome Bags:	Sandy Furick (Smith Mountain Branch)
Friday Fun:	Sandy Furick (Smith Mountain Branch)
Decorations:	Cacky Wright (Roanoke Valley Branch)
Door Prizes:	Roanoke Valley Branch
Hospitality:	Wytheville Branch
Dine Arounds:	Lynchburg Branch
Sightseeing Tours:	Karen Schmidt (Lynchburg Branch)
Other Volunteers:	Gwen Solyom, Anitra Webster, Co-Presidents (Lynchburg Branch) Cacky Wright, President (Roanoke Valley) Betsy DeWeese, President (Smith Mountain Branch) Alma Watson, President (Wytheville Branch)

## HOTEL CHECK-IN AND PARKING

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### **Hilton Garden Inn**

**4025 Wards Road**

**Lynchburg, VA 24502**

**434-329-7928**

**The room rate includes breakfast.**

- **Check-in: 3 PM Check-out: noon**
- Each room is equipped with a microwave, a refrigerator, Keurig® coffee maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board.
- Wireless and High-Speed Internet are complimentary in every room.
- Enjoy the hotel's indoor heated pool with spa and state-of-the-art fitness center featuring Precor® fitness equipment
- 24-hour complimentary access to our business center which includes copies, faxes, and the use of two PC terminals for our registered guests
- 24-hour Pavilion Pantry® convenience mart.
- **Free parking**

## FRIDAY FUN EVENTS

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

**Located in historic Lynchburg, Virginia**, the Anne Spencer House & 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 Ground <https://www.pointofhonor.org/>

When Point of Honor was given its distinctive name in the early 1800's, 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.

Please join us for a historical experience, and enjoy a guided walking tour of the Point of Honor house, hearth kitchen, and grounds.

### 3. The Maier Museum of Art at Randolph College <https://maiermuseum.org>

Upcoming Exhibition: Kat Owens: Entangled and Ingested

Location: Randolph College Hampson Commons Student Center in Main Hall

On view January 11 – May 20, 2024

2024 Senior Studio Art Majors Exhibition

On view April 11 – May 4, 2024

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.

Her work is interdisciplinary, often merging science, policy and the arts.

For the *Entangled and Ingested* project, she creates life-sized portraits of animals harmed by plastic pollution by hand sewing film plastic onto canvas.

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

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8:30 – 9:15 am	<b>Conference Check-in/Vendor tables</b>
9:30 am	<b>Opening and Welcome</b> <b>Pledge of Allegiance – Sandy Lawrence</b> <b>President Lane Stone and Administrator,</b> <b>Sarita McCoy Gregory, Ph.D.</b>
9:45 am	<b>Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar – <u>Courageous Leaders</u></b> <b><i>President of the University of Lynchburg</i></b>
10:30 am	<b>Ten Minute Toolkits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Branch Essentials – Tess Evans</li><li>• Cybersecurity for branches – Sarita Gregory</li><li>• Legacy Circle – Kristin Moyer</li><li>• Micro-aggression – Meg Tuccillo/Erica Brown-Meredith</li><li>• Program ideas – Nadine James</li><li>• Regional Conference Hosting – Diane Schrier</li></ul>
11:45 am	<b>Buffet Lunch/Vendor tables/Hotel checkout</b>
12:45 pm	<b>Meghan Kissell – <u>Connection &amp; Courage</u></b> <b><i>AAUW Senior Director of Policy &amp; Membership Advocacy</i></b>
1:45 pm	<b>Meet &amp; Greet your State Board– <u>Commitment to our</u></b> <b><u>Branches</u></b>
2:45 pm	<b>Break/Vendor tables</b>
3:15 pm	<b>District Meetings/ Announcements</b>
4:15 pm	<b>Adjourned</b>

**Name Badge Key:** **green** = first timer; **gold** = branch president; **orange** = board member;  
**blue** = past state president

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND PRESENTERS

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### Keynote Address

*“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.”*



On August 1, 2020, Dr. Morrison-Shetlar became the 11th president at 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 marketing of the University outside of Virginia to grow enrollment and engagement with the community to provide students the experiential learning opportunities they deserve. President 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.

## Conference Presenter

*“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 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 policymakers to advocate for positive policy outcomes.

Before 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/>

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

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### **President**

Lane Stone

### **Administrator**

Sarita McCoy Gregory

### **VP for Program**

Nadine James

### **VP for Membership**

Laura 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**

Erica Brown-Meredith

Meg Tuccillo

### **Recording Secretary**

Laura Southall

### **AAUW Funds Chair**

Ann Johnson

### **College/University Co-Chairs**

Marsha Melkonian

Barbara Woodlee

### **Bylaws and Resolutions**

#### **Chair**

Suzanne Rothwell

#### **Historian**

Vacant

### **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

#### **Virginia Vision Layout Editor**

Tess Evans

#### **Web Manager**

Patsy Quick

#### **Technology and Social Media Manager**

Tess Evans

#### **Voting and Elections Chair**

Sandy Lawrence

### **Here's how to contact state board members:**

1. On the state website homepage <https://aauw-va.aauw.net> click "Contact Us" on the menu bar. That takes you to the contact page.
2. 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.

## President and Administrator Report

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As we approach the end of our second year of service, we want to express our gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your state president and administrator. Our primary goal was to support branches, branch leadership, and members without creating additional layers. We hope we have been successful.

### **Atlantic Regional Conference:**

We pledged our support for a regional conference and have now agreed to host it! According to Caroline Pickens, "Years ago, there was a regional conference every other year," which alternated with the National Conference. The planning committee is comprised of VA, MD, DC, NC, SC, PA, GA, NY, NJ, FL, and CT. The conference will be held from September 27-29, 2024, in Glen Allan, VA. The theme is Empowering for Equity.

The Central States Regional Conference was held by AAUW central states (Michigan south to Kansas and Missouri) in St. Louis in October 2023, and it was a tremendous success. Their organizers have been a valuable resource for us.

We urge you to attend and participate in reviving this tradition.

### **STEMEd:**

We are collaborating with VA Tech's Innovation Campus and AAUW-National to organize a one-day hands-on coding event. All branches were invited to participate. The team is Alexandria (2 groups), Arlington, Hampton, Mt. Vernon, and Roanoke Valley. Our launch date is April 20, and some branches will use a recording for their events. We hope this is the beginning of many partnerships with the Innovation Campus.

### **Branch Essentials:**

Our project to revamp our old summer leadership meeting into a more useful model is nearing completion. Tess Evans has developed a convenient and accessible product with sections on New Member, President/Administrator, DEI&B, Public Policy, Finance, Membership, and PR/Outreach. Branch leaders can use one or all sections. Be sure to thank Tess when you see her in Lynchburg.

### **Action:**

We have expressed our unwavering opposition to Grayson County's proposed ordinance criminalizing providing or obtaining an abortion, as well as their attempt to create an "unborn sanctuary."

Sarita worked at Sen. Mark Warner's Women's Conference, where we provided screen cleaners ("Equal Work. Equal Pay.") with a QR code to join AAUW and (unequal) Payday candy bars.

Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents, Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden, organized an excellent State Lobby Day. Greater Richmond-AAUW hosted a reception for us the night before our big day. We fanned out and spoke to delegates and senators about AAUW priorities.

This year we visited Wytheville, Winchester, and Reston/Herndon and hope to receive invitations to visit more branches!

Lane Stone and Sarita Gregory  
President and Administrator

## Vice President for Program Report

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I continued collaborating and planning with the State Board leadership and the Southwest District Chair for the April 2024 AAUW of Virginia State Conference.

- I helped with identifying speakers and assisted with obtaining biographies, photographs, and contact information of the speakers. Conference speakers will align their talks with one of the elements of our theme: Courage, Connection, and Commitment.
- I requested opportunities to address branch members at their meetings (Winchester Branch, Southeast District meeting, Harrisonburg Branch meeting) hoping direct appeals will inspire members to attend the conference.
- I communicated with National and assisted with obtaining a letter from the CEO for the State Conference program.
- I created a survey for conference attendees to complete which will provide feedback and assist with planning upcoming state conferences.
- As Vice President for Program, I assisted in acquiring the Woman of Achievement Award that will be presented to the Honoree at the Annual Business meeting.

Nadine James  
Vice President for Program

## Vice President for Membership Report

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AAUW of Virginia was invited to participate in the Virginia Women’s Conference, hosted by Senator Mark R. Warner on September 30, at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Members from the Southeast District greeted attendees and shared AAUW materials. We were especially excited when AAUW National was invited to present a workshop. A link for the many workshops was provided by Senator Warner’s office to share: [www.youtube.com/@virginiawomensconference9993](http://www.youtube.com/@virginiawomensconference9993).

While unable to meet in person, I had several opportunities to meet several branch members during the Community Hub Zoom sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These office hours proved to be beneficial in resolving membership and financial concerns.

I was able to meet with the Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Norfolk, Newport News, and Hampton members and hear of branch activities while attending the Southeast District meeting in October.

AAUW of VA has not received the official membership count from National before the deadline date for this report. Updated information will be in the spring *Vision* issue. Congratulations to the branches who retained more than 80% of their membership for 2024. Branches retaining 100% membership will receive a cash bonus and a certificate.

Laura Browning Greenfield  
VP for Membership

<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>2023 Membership</b>	<b>2024 Membership</b>	<b>Retention % of Membership 2024</b>
Alexandria	49	50	100
Arlington	55	50	91
Falls Church	33	41	100
Hampton	18	18	100
Harrisonburg	32	35	100
Lynchburg	35	31	96
Mt. Vernon	39	41	100
Newport News	13	14	100
Norfolk	20	15	95
Portsmouth	22	24	100
Greater Richmond	32	25	93
Roanoke Valley	54	41	87
Springfield-Annadale	56	54	98
Virginia Beach	44	38	94
Winchester	36	41	100
Reston-Herndon	79	63	83
McLean Area	109	101	91
Wytheville	24	32	100
Woodbridge	46	41	95
Fairfax City	25	24	99
Greater Manassas	10	11	100
Vienna Area	56	59	100
Smith Mountain	77	78	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>96</b>

# THE AAUW PROGRAM

Every year 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.

Participation in the FY23 Branch Impact Survey counted as participation in the Five-Star program.

## **Congratulations to the 10 branches in AAUW-VA for being Star Awardees:**

**The 1 Star Awardees** are **Hampton, Norfolk, and Portsmouth.**

**The 2 Star Awardees** are **Falls Church Area, and Fairfax City.**

**The 3 Star Awardees** are **Mt Vernon, Virginia Beach, Reston-Herndon Area, and McLean Area.**

**The 4 Star Awardee** is **Springfield-Annandale.**

The 1-& 2-Star branches will receive Email recognition from AAUW national and Branch listing on the national website.

The 3-&4- Star branches will receive Recognition in Membership Matters, Email recognition from AAUW National, and Branch listing on the national website.

The current program covers branch activities and programs from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 (FY24). Refer to the March issue of Membership Matters for criteria and resources that will count toward earning STARS.

Laura Browning Greenfield  
VP for Membership & Branch Development

## Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy Report

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AAUW-VA members continued their strong advocacy of reproductive rights, public schools, and economic security throughout the year. We had strong participation in our quarterly public policy Zoom meetings, and branches wrote more than 3,000 Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) postcards to encourage voters of color to get to the polls in November for the election of every Virginia General Assembly seat. We also provided voter guides for all the contested Senate races, and AAUW National supported us with a statewide Get Out the Vote (GOTV) action alert.

After the election of the most diverse and youngest Virginia legislature in history, AAUW-VA found itself in a position to advance legislation on a salary history ban (SHB), paid family and medical leave (PFML), and reproductive rights that was headed to the governor's desk as this report was prepared. AAUW National supported our efforts with statewide action alerts on PFML and the SHB. Reproductive rights were a flashpoint; in December 2023, AAUW-VA provided testimony as part of a coalition that defeated a proposed ordinance that would have made Grayson County a sanctuary for the unborn.

We held a Lobby Day in Richmond on Jan. 31 attended by 35 members who contacted nearly 90 legislators. Many members also participated in our first-ever Virtual Lobby Day on Feb. 28, writing letters to the governor to pass our legislation and taking other actions from their homes. As members of the Paid Sick Days and PUSH (maternal health care) coalitions, we were also able to advance legislation in these areas, although the sick days bill died. We participated in the crafting of the legislative priorities for the Fund Our Schools coalition as well as their first-ever Lobby and Rally Day on Feb. 19. Public school funding was in the public eye throughout the General Assembly session and appeared to be headed for improvements. Nearing the end of the session, we might make progress on our priorities if the governor signs our legislation.

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

## Mini-Grants Report

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AAUW-VA's mini-grant program continued to support branch projects that align with our public policy priorities throughout the Commonwealth. The State Board approved \$2,000 for 2023-2024 mini-grants, and the summer *Vision* provided information for applying online. Applications were due by September 15. The Mini-Grant Committee assessed five applications based on:

- Innovation/creativity
- Community outreach
- Support of AAUW priorities
- Recruitment value
- Collaboration with others
- Financial need
- Value of outcomes

All branches who applied were approved and awarded a mini-grant as requested. Hampton submitted two requests; Vienna Area, Wytheville, and McLean Area each submitted one. The branches must complete their projects by June 30, provide a short report after completing their activity, and submit all receipts by July 15, 2024. A reimbursement form was sent to the branches with instructions on how to submit the report and receipts.

Marsha Melkonian/Barbara Woodlee  
Mini-Grant Committee Chairs

## Vice President for Finance Report

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As of February 29, 2024, total income (consisting of dues and reimbursement for AAUW logo screen wipes) was \$12,299.10 versus a budgeted amount of \$13,500. Total expenses for the same period were \$6,149.40 versus a budgeted amount of \$16,680, which compares favorably. The major expense category was Public Policy, particularly for Get Out the Vote (GOTV) and Lobby Day, both of which were successful activities.

Virginia Kress  
Vice President for Finance

## Vice President for Communications Report

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### **AAUW of Virginia Communications Committee**

Website Manager: Patsy Quick (Mt. Vernon)

Technology and Social Media Manager: Tess Evans (Greater Richmond)

*Vision* Copy Editor: Mary Anne Graham (McLean Area, Winchester)

*Vision* Interim Layout Editor, Conference Support-Layout Editor: Patsy Quick

*Vision* (2024-25) Layout Editor: Tess Evans

Committee Chair, VP for Communications: Dianne Mero (Reston-Herndon Area)

Administrator: Lane Stone, President (Alexandria)

### **AAUW-VA Website**

Serving in her seventh year as the website manager, Patsy Quick (Mt. Vernon) is responsible for providing information to AAUW-VA members, and visitors to the state website (aauw-va.aauw.net). Patsy keeps everyone up to date regarding the activities of the state leaders, as well as both state and branch events and accomplishments. To maintain a useful and current website, Patsy works directly with all the AAUW-VA officers and State Board members. In addition to the branches that have managed websites supported through AAUW Site Resources, other branches have pages connected directly to the state website. At a minimum, the web manager communicates with branches annually to offer state support. Branches often ask the communications team to collaborate with them on ways to improve their sites.

### **Technology and Social Media**

In addition to the state website, AAUW-VA maintains both a Facebook and an Instagram page overseen by Technology Manager Tess Evans (Richmond). Tess often assists other State Board members with ongoing technology challenges, including Zoom management, and was the layout editor for the Winter/Spring 2024 *Vision*.

### **Email and Communication**

Email continues to be the most useful means of communication within the state board and with and between the branches. Web Manager Patsy Quick monitors the state website and forwards received emails to the appropriate board member/s. We use a mass mailing account to send messages regarding various meetings, events, and opportunities to members. We recently switched our account to Mailerlite and will continue to monitor its services while exploring other communication possibilities with assistance from Tess.

### **The *Vision***

The AAUW-VA state newsletter, the *Vision*, is published three times each year and serves as a major means of communication with over 1,100 AAUW-VA members and friends who receive a copy. Mary Anne Graham (McLean Area and Winchester) serves as copy editor responsible for receiving and reviewing, then editing articles submitted by the State Board members, branch leaders, and members. Newly appointed Layout Editor Tess Evans (Greater Richmond), arranges the information for both the online and print formats. (Printed copies are sent to members without email addresses.) *Vision* is also posted on the state website and stored in the state's online archives. Recently, the communications committee updated the guidance document, *Process for Publishing and Distributing the Vision*, which has been successfully implemented for several years and is ready for another review in 2024-25.

Dianne Mero  
Vice President for Communication

**AAUW Funds Chair Report**  
**CONTRIBUTIONS - CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

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<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>BRANCH &amp; MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>GREATEST NEEDS FUND</b>
Alexandria	\$4,947	90% of contributions
Arlington	\$1,469	85% of contributions
Falls Church Area	\$4,850	100% of contributions
Fairfax City	\$1,908	100% of contributions
Greater Manassas	\$600	75% of contributions
Greater Richmond	\$540	100% of contributions
Hampton	\$735	100% of contributions
Harrisonburg	\$215	100% of contributions
Lynchburg	\$175	100% of contributions
McLean Area	\$13,719	64% of contributions
Mount Vernon	\$4,890	100% of contributions
Newport News	\$1,000	100% of contributions
Norfolk	\$29,570	100% of contributions
Portsmouth	\$1,577	100% of contributions
Reston-Herndon Area	\$4,549	99% of contributions
Roanoke Valley	\$2,227	66% of contributions
Smith Mountain	\$1,237	100% of contributions
Springfield-Annandale	\$3,830	100% of contributions
Vienna Area	\$3,092	94% of contributions
Virginia Beach	\$2,926	100% of contributions
Winchester	\$742	100% of contributions
Woodbridge	\$503	40% of contributions
Wytheville	\$165	100% of contributions
Virginia State AAUW	\$1,419	50% of contributions
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$86,885</b>	

Ann Johnson  
AAUW Funds Chair

## Branch Names Honored 2023

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<b>Alexandria:</b>	Leslie Tourigny, Mary Ann Bier, Lane Stone, Susan Cash, Arlene Schuchner, Rita Rutsohn, Lynn O'Connell, Susan Werner, and Anne Simpson
<b>Arlington:</b>	Karen Darner and Teri Doxsee
<b>Fairfax City:</b>	Joyce Grimes, Kelly Espy, and Paulette Miller
<b>Falls Church Area:</b>	Mary Youman, Pam Martinov, Marilyn Falksen, Sarah John, Clare O'Sheel, Bradley Loomis, Marion Jarrett, Mary Ellen Gannon, and Mollie Jewell
<b>Greater Richmond:</b>	Laura Wimmer
<b>Hampton:</b>	Lona Ross, in memoriam
<b>McLean Area:</b>	Cheryl Williams, Judy Lettes, Anita Booth, Sue Cristy, Aroona Borpujari, Judy Page, Mary Lou Melley, Barbara Carr, Elaine Lailas, and Margie Broderick
<b>Mount Vernon:</b>	Mary Wall, Paula Lettice, Zayne Reeves, Janelle Ortiz, Audrey Davis, Arvette Reid, Jenny Grover, Karen Corbett Sanders, and Dr Scott Taylor
<b>Newport News:</b>	Newport News Branch AAUW 97 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Candice Byrd
<b>Norfolk:</b>	Sally Sledge, in memoriam
<b>Portsmouth:</b>	Marie Callo, Fran Alwood Family in recognition of the memorial scholarship fund established for Suffolk High School graduation.
<b>Reston Herndon Area:</b>	Janine Greenwood, Maureen Dwyer, Jackie Brown, Stephanie Abbott Janine Greenwood, and Dianne Mero for participation on State Board
<b>Roanoke Valley:</b>	Dana Bailey, Kathy Ward, Susan Wolford, and Cacky Wright
<b>Smith Mountain:</b>	Patricia Bratcher and Maria Meleis
<b>Springfield-Annandale:</b>	Cathie Boivin, Ann Sauberman, Irene McGhee, Karen Flann, Judy Baldwin, Susan Burk, and Judy Titterton
<b>Vienna Area:</b>	Laurie Cole, Naureen Nalia, Julia Williams, Candace Strawn, Susan Pauly and five Out of State Members
<b>Virginia Beach:</b>	Mary Rau, in memoriam, WHRO, Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital, Christine Medlin, and Pam Katrancha
<b>Winchester:</b>	Marsha Gochenour
<b>Woodbridge:</b>	The Woodbridge Branch, celebrating its 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – championing inclusion, and girls' STEM education.

Ann Johnson  
AAUW Funds Chair

## College and University Co-Chairs Report

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We have focused this year on making connections with higher education institutions and assisting branches in this effort. Currently, Virginia has 13 AAUW college/university partners.

They are as follows:

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

To learn more about other higher education connections and relationships, we developed a brief survey. The survey was first administered to branch college and university representatives. We wished to capture more information and modified the questions to survey branch presidents. The survey results will be shared in an article this spring.

As co-chairs, we responded to inquiries from branches regarding AAUW student organizations and the benefits of student membership. We are putting together a brief information piece describing these benefits.

Additionally, we assisted the University of Lynchburg as they completed the process of becoming an AAUW college/university partner. We appreciate the immense help Southwest District Representative Anita Ayers provided us with this effort. We thank Cyndi Shanahan for her support as well.

Responsibility for the mini-grants program moved to the college/university partners co-chairs this year. Marsha Melkonian, Virginia Kress, and Barbara Woodlee served on a committee to review applications and make awards. We received five requests totaling \$1,985 for our budget of \$2000. All projects were funded. We carried over a project from the previous year, which gave us six projects in all.

Finally, we responded to requests for information from AAUW and other organizations.

Marsha Melkonian and Barbara Woodlee  
College and University Co-Chairs

## Co-Vice Presidents for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report

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The world around us is ever evolving and so should we! No matter our age, race, life experiences, or other factors, there is always more to learn about issues related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access. Many branches have been exploring how to connect in their communities and have been collaborating with young women immigrants at community colleges, using discussion prompts at branch meetings to encourage genuine conversations on race and collaborating with organizations such as the NAACP and The Links, Inc. on joint activities.

In the fall, we gathered branch DEI representatives and presidents for a Zoom session to share ideas and resources and to review some of the worthwhile tools in the Virginia AAUW DEI resources section of our website (<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/diversity-and-inclusion-chair/>). We also gathered in January for a valuable presentation by our own Dr. Erica Brown-Meredith on the issue of microaggressions and shared the presentation with representatives for a program in their home branches.

We value the work of our branch representatives and continue to be energized by State AAUW efforts to address critical issues affecting equity and access for marginalized people in Virginia and nationwide. To help achieve the goal of truly valuing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access, we share this excerpt from a poem by Micky Scottbey Jones:

An Invitation to a Brave Space

We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.

We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.

We will not be perfect.

It will not always be what we wish it to be

But

It will be our brave space together,

And

We will work on it side by side.

Erica Brown-Meredith and Meg Tuccillo  
DEI Co-Vice Presidents

## Bylaws and Resolutions Chair Report

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### Amendments Adopted to AAUW Bylaws in 2023

The AAUW-VA Board of Directors submitted comments on a proposed AAUW Bylaws amendment in 2023 that would have deleted the entire 60-day notification period for members regarding any AAUW dues change. AAUW modified its proposal to shorten the notification period to at least 30 days. Thereafter, AAUW members voted to approve the AAUW Bylaws amendments. The AAUW Bylaws amendments resulted in mandatory changes to the first seven articles of affiliate (state and branch) bylaws, which AAUW requires to be completed by June 30, 2026. Thus far, the state and 10 branches have completed the 2023 Bylaws modifications.

### Amendments to the Board of Directors Handbook

A project was continued to update the AAUW-VA Board of Directors Handbook, which guides directors in fulfilling their responsibilities to supplement the state Bylaws. The Handbook is available on the AAUW-VA website. At the July 2023 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved corrections, clarifications, and updates to the following parts of the Handbook:

- Part I-Policy: Board Policy, *Vision* Publication Schedule and Procedures, and Policy on Website and Online Communications; and
- Part II-Job Descriptions: District Representatives, Vice President for Finance, and Vice President for Communications; *Vision* Editors, Webmaster, and Social Media Managers.

At the January 2024 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved: (1) deletion of the corresponding secretary's job description, as there is no longer a need to write paper-based correspondence for the president; and (2) amendments to the recording secretary's job description to be consistent with AAUW-VA Bylaws and other Handbook requirements for directors and reflect the recording secretary's current responsibilities (including maintaining the Board of Directors internet storage site for Board documents).

### Branch Guidance Issued

Guidance was provided to Virginia branches on an ongoing basis regarding branch-proposed changes to their bylaws, as well as other governance and bylaws questions. Instructions were distributed to branches via email and articles in the *Vision* regarding the procedures:

- for maintaining branch records.
- to submit IRS Form 990-N information to AAUW, and
- to update branch bylaws to conform to the 2023 AAUW Affiliate Model Bylaws.

Suzanne Rothwell  
Bylaws and Resolutions Chair



# VIRGINIA

The AAUW Board of Directors extends its heartfelt appreciation to these visionary Legacy Circle Members for their generous commitment to our organization. We are profoundly grateful for your dedication and support.

Anonymous  
Anita Aymer  
Nancy Jane Bains  
Kathy K. Batkin  
Jill Birdwhistell  
Dianne L. Blais  
Suzanne V. Bottoms  
Jo Brooks  
Anne L. Bryant  
HelenRuth Burch  
Susan F. Burk  
Janine Greenwood  
Linda D. Hallman  
Janet Hedrick  
Marjorie P. Hobart

Patricia Hussey  
Mary V. Johnson  
Evelyn R. Jones  
Dorothy S. Joslin  
Nancy D. Joyner  
Kathleen J. Kelley  
Sandra Lawrence  
Beverly A. Larson  
Marcy J. Leverenz  
Donald J. Leverenz  
Nancy M. MacKenzie  
Michele Milden  
Kristin C. Moyer  
Tammie Mullins-Rice  
Jennie Sue Murdock

Caroline Pickens  
Patricia N. Quick  
Sylvia Rogers  
Suzanne Rothwell  
Ann B. Sauberman  
Amy F. Sheldon  
Marion B. Stillson  
Leslie A. Tourigny  
Mary J. Wall  
Neola S. Waller  
Sherry J. Warren  
Nancy W. Warren  
Rance R. Willis  
Laura E. Wimmer  
Barbara Woodlee



## District Reports

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### Northern District

Northern District (ND) held two in-person district meetings in 2023 and post-covid turnout was great. The ND heard speakers from Generation Hope and Women Giving Back in February 2023. Both are organizations helping student mothers and women. AAUW started a collaboration with both organizations, contributing diapers and baby wipes donated by members. At the fall 2023 meeting, members heard from AAUW's Senior Director, Policy and Member Advocacy Meghan Kissell, and AAUW-VA Co-VP for Public Policy Janine Greenwood. Although Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan (VA-4<sup>th</sup> District) couldn't attend the meeting in person, she did prepare video remarks for the meeting.

District branches worked hard to get out the vote for the November 7, 2023, election. They again wrote hundreds of postcards for Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) to increase voter turnout in underrepresented (e.g., African American) communities. Members also supported voter registration and education efforts organized by the League of Women Voters.

A large cadre of members from Northern District branches traveled down to Richmond and participated in the AAUW-VA Lobby Day on January 31. They visited the offices of General Assembly members to discuss AAUW legislative priorities for the 2024 legislative session.

Just a heads up: We will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of AAUW of Virginia in 2025. Planning is already underway for a proper celebration at the 2025 state conference, which the Northern District will be hosting in Old Town Alexandria, on **March 28-29, 2025**.

Leslie Tourigny and Susan Burk  
Northern District Co-Representatives

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### Northwest District

The Northwest District met in January 2024 and discussed the upcoming national vote on membership and fundraising for scholarships in a changing world - amendments to our membership and our scholarships being considered discriminatory since they are only awarded to women. All on the Zoom call were concerned over these issues. By the end of the meeting, it is fair to say that we still had more questions than answers, and wanted to emphasize strongly to all Virginia AAUW members how long it took to get a one-member-one-vote organization and not to waste it. It is critical to vote in all state and national elections.

Laura Wimmer  
Northwest District Representative

## Southeast District

The Southeast District spring virtual meeting was held on February 25<sup>th</sup> with 25 participants. All six district branches were represented. The speaker was Dr. Maureen Elgersman Lee, the Mellon Engagement Coordinator for African American Heritage and Director of the William & Mary Bray School Lab. A history professor for more than two decades, she has held academic and/or administrative positions at universities in Georgia, Maine, and Virginia—and spent five years as executive director of Richmond’s Black History Museum. An award-winning scholar and professor, Maureen has produced numerous books and articles on various aspects of Black history in the United States, Canada, and the British Caribbean. Her current book project is an edited collection on the Williamsburg Bray School (1760-1774) to be published by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in 2026.

The Southeast District was the host of the Virginia State Conference in 2023 in Williamsburg. All branches participated in the planning of the state conference. Overall, a successful conference with 83 registered participants, representing 17 branches, and 16 branch presidents in attendance. The first in-person district meeting since the pandemic was held on October 21, 2023, in Virginia Beach. All the branches were represented. 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. All attendees were encouraged to act from a list of suggested ideas.

Tammie Mullins-Rice  
Southeast District Representative

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## Southwest District

The Southwest District Branches (Lynchburg, Roanoke Valley, Smith Mountain and Wytheville) have all been working to create a wonderful conference experience in Lynchburg.

I was able to visit all the branches this past year and organized the Wytheville STEM Event in April 2023 and March 2024.

In May, I attended the Scholarship Luncheon for the Smith Mountain Branch and returned in November for their Fashion Show Luncheon.

In July and August, I met with Lynchburg members to discuss conference responsibilities.

In October, the SW District Meeting was held in Roanoke at the Hollins Public Library. Pidge Morgan was our speaker. Pidge shared her experience in Tanzania working with girls and young women to help improve their lifestyles and gain an education. All four branches attended.

In January, I attended the Epicurean Luncheon with the Roanoke Valley Branch and visited both Lynchburg and Smith Mountain Branches.

All have been engaged in supporting this conference with **commitment and connection!**

Anita Aymer  
Southwest District Representative  
Conference Chair 2024

## AAUW of VIRGINIA BRANCH PRESIDENTS/ADMINISTRATORS

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

### Here's how to contact branch presidents:

1. Visit individual branch websites. Depending on the branch, contact information may be found in different places, including:
  - On the Menu Bar: "Contact Us" or "About Us"
  - On the Side Bar
  - At the bottom of the Homepage
2. **To reach branch websites and branch pages from the AAUW-VA website homepage,** <https://aauw-va.aauw.net>, on the menu bar go to "Branches," then "Virginia Branches & Leaders." Clicking on the branch name will take you to the branch website or branch page.
3. **To bypass the AAUW-VA homepage,** the direct link to "Virginia Branches and Leaders" is <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/branches/>.

## BRANCH REPORTS

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### Alexandria

The Alexandria Branch has been busy this year. The collaboration with Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) continues with donations to the Nighthawk Nest Food Pantry, bookstore, Women Helping Women Forum, the Braden Center for Women, and NCCWSL.

Members have been involved with the community with the diversity book club, Great Decisions discussions, Scottish Walk parade dressed as famous Alexandrian women, supporting the 131-mile walk from Alexandria to Richmond recognizing Women's Equality Day, Christ House meals for the homeless, books for Together We Bake girls to get their GEDs, donations for the Domestic Violence Shelter, mentoring of students, sponsoring a night at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, meetings with elected officials locally, statewide, and nationally, postcards to encourage voting, and meeting with the Alexandria poet laureate, the Director of K-12 Programs at the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, and the Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent.

Additionally, the mystery book club, French club, gourmet out club, opera club, and movie and dinner nights out are extremely popular. Members toured famous spots for Alexandria women and visited the exhibit about the dedicated women who founded what became Inova Hospital.

Diane Schrier  
Co-President

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### Arlington

Arlington Branch members were thrilled to meet again in person at the annual December luncheon and monthly meetings after the pandemic where members learned more about a variety of topics that included artificial intelligence, World War II code breakers, and recent immigrant experiences. Members also read and discussed excellent fiction and non-fiction books monthly. The branch mentorship program at the monthly Lunch Bunch at Arlington Community High School continued to be a rewarding experience for both the students and our members. The highlight of the year was the branch being able to award, through the generosity of its members, \$1,000 academic scholarships to three Arlington high school seniors and a \$500 award to an Arlington teacher.

Theresa Bratt  
President

## Fairfax City

The Fairfax City Branch celebrated its 50th Anniversary in June!!!

Past and current members attended a festive luncheon and brought and spoke about many mementos of past AAUW activities. AAUW has meant so much to its members throughout the past 50 years. Fairfax City members have participated in many activities within the branch and community.

The branch appreciates invitations to other branch events including programs by the Jane Addams Branch in Illinois. A way to inform members of events by other branches in the state and throughout the U.S. would be beneficial since it is a lot of effort to arrange speakers; and with Zoom, many can attend.

Dianne Blais  
President

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## Falls Church Area

Fundraising has been a tradition of the branch for many years. This past year, rather than hosting the annual enormous book sale, the branch had a series of smaller fundraisers which included a dining for dollars, holiday tree fest, pop-up book and jewelry sale, and a smaller, simpler, and streamlined book sale. The fundraisers not only help the branch to remain connected to the Falls Church community but also provide the privilege to serve them.

Fundraising and the generosity of members' time, talent, and treasure make our mission to advance gender equity possible. The branch awarded 17 scholarships to Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) young women; many are the first in their families to attend college. AVID is an elective class offered in Fairfax County Public School High Schools to students who are the first in their families to attend college are economically disadvantaged, determined to go to college, and willing to take advanced courses.

We gave a special grant to the AVID program at Justice High School so that AVID students could visit colleges and universities and a second grant to Welcoming Falls Church for books for English learners. If that was not enough, the branch donated books to Pine Springs Elementary and funds to Graham Road Elementary School for a field trip, both Title 1 Schools in Falls Church.

In 2023, through Restore Our Vote (ROV) the Falls Church branch wrote 2,198 postcards for the VA fall election, for a total of 20,588 since 2020. The efforts paid off: voters sided with candidates that supported protections for voting rights and women's health. And here members go again in 2024!

Aida Loomis/Sharon Zackula  
Co-President

## Greater Manassas

Founded in the summer of 1975, the branch has heralded and supported AAUW projects, including Lobby Corps at the national level, for over 50 years. Though the membership is less than during the thriving 80s, 90s, and 2000s, members are proud to say that half of the current roster are life members with two founding members still active. In March, the branch collaborated to present the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS!” STEAM Careers Conference with the Woodbridge Branch. Greater Manassas branch leadership inaugurated the conference during Women’s History Month in 1991. It continued presenting and then co-presenting with Woodbridge for the first 10 years, and the format became a stellar model for AAUW for other states and branches. For this reason, the branch named gift honoree for 2023 celebrates the Greater Manassas Branch for planting the seed for STEAM outreach and support for women and girls extending now into four decades! Meanwhile, members are advocates and community volunteers and looking forward to the 50th anniversary year.

Nancy Bentrem, Finance Officer  
Susan Bardenhagen, Membership

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## Greater Richmond

The Greater Richmond Branch spent this last year having an educational session for one month followed by an event/activity the next month on the same topic/issue. The branch supported the Heartbeats Program at Virginia Commonwealth University with donations of products for moms and babies - a whole carful of personal hygiene, diapers, and baby clothing. Members celebrated Women's Equality Day in August followed in the fall by a learning session on AFOI - Assisting Families of Inmates which is a 40+ year program that helps families of those incarcerated. In September, the branch co-sponsored Raise Your Hand for Education - a forum for those supporting quality public education. Members wrote 500 postcards to support the Reclaim Our Vote initiative. In January, the branch hosted a reception for women legislators and AAUW members from throughout the state. In February, members had a wonderful program at the newly renovated and expanded Virginia Museum of History and Culture (VMHC) where they were given a glimpse into its incredible holdings and saw where and how to search for AAUW historical records. The museum staff even brought out the very fragile records from 1909 to see!!

Laura Wimmer  
President

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## Hampton

Filled with an intent to carry the message of progress for women in the political arena, Dr. Margaret Bristow shared “Strong but Kind: Women in Leadership,” outlining the progress women in other countries have made in their governments. In June, Laura Greenfield, State Vice President for Membership, conducted training using “What Is AAUW?” as her title. Five guests attended and one joined a few months later. Three members attended Sen. Mark Warner’s Virginia Women’s Conference at ODU in September. They shared representing AAUW at a table with members from other branches in

the Southeast District. The following week, branch members completed 250 postcards for Reclaim Our Vote. Lastly, the branch president and public policy chair attended the Legislative Reception and Legislative Day. They were able to speak with their delegate and have a photo taken, which appeared the following week in their delegate's newsletter.

Carolyn Stewart  
Co-President

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### Harrisonburg

After a customary summer hiatus, the Harrisonburg Branch met for the annual wine and cheese kickoff in August. In October, Leah Hackman gave a presentation on the New Bridges Immigration Resource Center in Harrisonburg. In November, members met for a casual lunch at Cross Keys Vineyard. In January, Kevin Pallister, professor of history and political science at Bridgewater College, gave a presentation entitled Understanding Dictatorships. During fall 2023, the Zoom discussion group addressed banned books in September, "Educated: A Memoir" by Tara Westover in October, and the Southern Poverty Law Center's report on Hate Groups and Extremism in November.

Laura Zarrugh  
President

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### Lynchburg

The Lynchburg Branch has stepped back and reviewed its programming and membership processes. In October '23, the branch commenced a focus group look at its usual management styles, both current and future potentials.

Membership: developed a flyer to advertise the organization which was placed in nine locations. The branch set up a dedicated email contact for membership inquiries and another dedicated email contact for college scholarship inquiries. The branch updated its website. The branch planned three casual socials for members to visit over coffee.

Program: The branch reviewed partnerships to host Great Decisions lectures and conversations.

Members addressed several fundraising possibilities.

The branch is pleased to be the host for this year's State Conference.

Gwen Solyo and Anitra Webster  
Co-Presidents

## McLean Area

The McLean Area Branch hosted a successful fundraiser to raise money for scholarships at Total Wine in McLean. The event included a master class on cheese and wine pairing attended by over 49 members and their friends and family. The holiday program speaker was retiring State Senator Janet Howell, who spoke about women in politics. She was honored for her service as the longest-serving female Virginia senator. The branch has been actively participating in lobbying with state and local constituents. A group of members also participated in lobbying on Capitol Hill as well as Lobby Day in Richmond, meeting with Delegate Rip Sullivan. McLean Area Branch will be honoring four post-graduate women who received the branch's endowed fellowships and grants as well as four middle school STEM essay contest winners at a potluck in March. Philanthropic endeavors continue with members providing mentoring and volunteering at Graham Road Elementary School, a Title 1 school in Falls Church.

Naz Basit  
President

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## Mt. Vernon

The Mt. Vernon Branch finally had an in-person fundraiser in 2023 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, with the Alexandria Branch. Our branch donations to AAUW enabled us to honor 14 of our members. At our June planning meeting, we decided to focus on ourselves as (mostly) retired women. Our September program was focused on women's empowerment and was called *Holding Your Field*. It was fascinating and opened our eyes to ways of empowering ourselves that were not previously thought of. Our October topic was *Seniors Staying Strong* led by an 83-year-old fitness expert. In November, four branch members gave a presentation on their *Antarctic Adventures*. We not only learned about traveling to that continent, but we also learned about the Antarctic Treaty, the history of exploring Antarctica, and the Citizen Science programs aboard the expedition ships that travel there. In January, our topic was *Seniors in Transition*. We learned about the options of senior living communities. We are looking forward to another successful fundraiser in March 2024, and a program on the *Underfunding of Public Education* as our year comes to an end. All of our programs have been open to the public at Sherwood Regional Library. They have been well attended and appreciated by members of the public. Our book, game night, and dining-out groups have been active and well-attended throughout the year. We held two postcard writing events this year as part of GOTV.

Patsy Quick  
President

## Newport News

Newport News Branch meets monthly and has a variety of programs. The branch began this year by reading and discussing a mystery novel where the characters included an octopus that lived in an aquarium. For many years, the branch has supported Transitions Family Violence Services, and Linda Budd, Resources and Evaluation Manager, brought members up to date on Transitions. Dr. Lynn Lambert, Academic Administrator at Christopher Newport University, told us about the graduate program and topics students are working on. Members attended the Virginia Choral Society's Holiday event. The branch also plans to hear from writers' groups, and how they work. How to grow oysters is another topic we will explore.

Nancy Jane Bains  
Secretary

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## Norfolk

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

The first meeting of Fall 2023 was a postcard writing party. Members enjoyed catching up on the summer and had fun writing our 50 postcards. Four members represented the Norfolk Branch at the Southeast District meeting at WHRO on February 24. While the branch has downsized a bit, members will continue to meet by Zoom at least four times a year.

Wilma S. Robinson  
President

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## Portsmouth

The Portsmouth Branch is excited and honored to assume responsibility for the administration of the Fran Alwood Scholarship Fund. This fund was established in memory of Fran Alwood who was an active member of the former Suffolk Branch. The Alwood family wanted the administration of the scholarship to remain with an AAUW branch. Members met with representatives of the family in November to consider the details of how the scholarship is to be administered and the criteria for applicants. Preparation is underway to award the scholarship to a Suffolk high school graduate this spring. Members continue to support the AAUW mission and public policy initiatives as the branch plans for the spring months.

Phyllis Shannon  
President

## Reston-Herndon Area

Reston-Herndon has focused on DEI and public policy. The branch is also centering on in-person activities to increase member connections. Highlights include:

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Visiting the Reston Museum to view the museum’s exhibit “Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality”
- Holding a program on notable women in Herndon’s history
- Learning about unconscious bias with an interactive session

### Public Policy

- Hearing from Delegate Ken Plum on “The State of the Commonwealth of Virginia”
- Hearing jointly with Vienna Branch from VA Senators Jennifer Boysko and Chap Peterson

### In-Person Events

- Venturing to Meadowlark Gardens and Dodona Manor together
- Holding our annual Friendsgiving Luncheon and a tea

Judy Helmich/Cyndi Shanahan  
Co-Administrators

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## Roanoke Valley

The Roanoke Valley Branch has had an exciting year. The biggest news was that in 2023, the branch celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year. Members had an excellent program with highlights of events and activities. A big thank you to Dana Bailey, HelenRuth Burch, and Jennie Sue Murdock for putting it together. The branch added the president-elect position to help members become comfortable with taking on the president role. The branch is also in the process of surveying its membership to see how it can meet the needs of members and the branch.

Cacky Wright  
President

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## Smith Mountain

The Smith Mountain Branch had a busy and productive 2023, with branch meetings highlighting women from the area who have had influence. Despite a decline in the population of the tri-county area over the past five years and the normal forces of relocation and advancing age at work, the branch membership continues to remain steady or even grow each year.

The annual fundraiser was a tremendous success yet again. The sold-out event included a multi-media fashion show featuring a local mother-daughter vendor and a silent auction full of treasures and fun. The branch raised the largest total to date that helped support women in the community with post-secondary school scholarships, send local girls to a week at a summer science camp, assist high school seniors with college application fees, and perform other activities supporting women and girls and the community at large.

Members were not all work and no play. The two interest groups, International Studies and Classics Reading, provided opportunities for members to broaden their horizons. This year, International Studies participants concluded their study of Estonia to start exploring Ukraine (the largest country entirely in Europe). Classics participants put down their banned and challenged books and dug into children's classics beginning with "Alice in Wonderland." Through these groups, as well as field trips to local gems like the Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum in Lynchburg, members foster learning and discussion, encouraging personal growth, cultural understanding, and fun.

Ann Johnson and Margee Kauffman  
Newsletter Co-Chairs

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### Springfield-Annandale

The Springfield-Annandale Branch continues to offer dynamic and creative programs for our members. At the annual fundraiser on May 5, 2023, the branch hosted former Chief Information Officer of NASA Renee Wynn, who spoke on the topic of how space exploration has benefitted humanity. On October 25th, there was a tour to the Women's Memorial at Arlington Cemetery led by member Sandy Lawrence, a retired Navy commander with over 24 years of service, and most recently, on January 18, 2024, the branch hosted a Zoom program on Women's Financial Health led by Michelle Massey of Merrill Lynch, and Sylvia Auton, author of "Grandma Sylvia's Guide to the Stock Market."

Cathleen Boivin  
Co-President

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### Vienna Area

The Vienna Area Branch has had a very productive 2023. First, we have sixty members and three of them are males. Second, we have had programs every month, which have been well attended. Two of the recent programs were especially popular: Unraveling the Complexities of AI and individuals from the State Department detailing how high school students can live with host families and study abroad. The former program was led by a George Mason University professor who explained how AI will affect our lives in the future. The latter was led by one of our members who works for the State Department. She brought in students who have participated in their program and the people who collaborated with them.

Candace Strawn  
Co-President

## Virginia Beach

The Virginia Beach Branch has had a busy year. In September, the branch celebrated Neola Waller's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a member. We are thankful for all she has contributed over the years. In October, the branch had a speaker discuss implicit bias in maternal health care, an issue that deserves more attention and action. In November, the State Co-VP for Public Policy, Denise Murden, spoke regarding AAUW's public policy priorities. In December, the branch held its annual luncheon and raffled baskets to raise funds for the Linda Todd Scholarship and also donated books for Reading Enriches All Children (REACH). James Schull from Veterans for Political Innovation spoke in January on its collaboration with UpVote Virginia and their efforts to ensure a fair election by using Ranked Choice Voting in Virginia. Members sold tickets to raise more scholarship funds and attended the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach production of "A Raisin in the Sun." The February meeting was held following the Southeast District meeting where the authors of "Platinum Rules for Enjoying Life" discussed their new book. The branch had several members attend Women United's Stone Soup whose volunteers made 500 casseroles and assembled 450 bagged lunches to donate to local non-profits. The branch will welcome Sally Dudley from the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) in March. Members are working to fund a trip for two students to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) again this spring.

Jeanette Olson  
Co-President

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## Winchester

Winchester Branch has focused on building on the Three R's: Recruitment, Retention, and Rejuvenation, initiated in 2022. The branch held a retreat for self-evaluation in June, followed in September by President Lane Stone assisting with the development of a strategic plan. These resulted in modifications to the meeting structure and calendar, as well as the identification of strategies for expanding recognition and engagement in the community.

In March, the branch recognized local historian and activist, Judy Humbert, as Woman of the Year at a standing-room-only reception.

In October, a candidate's forum was held jointly with the Shenandoah University Center for Civic Engagement, allowing for student participation and involvement in the election process.

The branch co-sponsored a public forum with the local chapter of the NAACP celebrating Black History and Women's History months. Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears was joined by a panel of local women who shared their experiences overcoming gender and race-based hurdles to achieve their educational and career goals.

These efforts resulted in 100% retention from last year and membership expansion from 36 in August 2023, to 44 in February 2024.

Patricia J Kadel  
President

## Woodbridge

2022-2023 was Woodbridge's achievement of 50 years as an AAUW branch. Although none of the founding members are around, the branch has storytellers, scrapbooks, and programs saved to share. Members co-presented, with the Greater Manassas Branch, the 30th-anniversary "SUCCESS!" STEAM Careers Conference for students and adults in their lives for the first time since 2019 with the pandemic sidelining in-person workshops. The branch honored two important women who were involved with the branch and community who had died and included their families. Souvenir t-shirts, presenters in all aspects of STEAM careers, and students, their parents, and teachers - made for an impressive experience! The virtual science fair judging team continued a 40-year tradition. Members represented the branch at the onsite and virtual parts of AAUW-VA's 2023 conference and business meeting. In May, the branch celebrated the students of STEAM with presentations by previous science fair awardees, now at college, who shared their experiences and involvement with STEAM careers and fielded questions from the middle schoolers; art displayed and shared by the award-winning artists from three jurisdictions; and future engineers, scientists, technologists, and mathematicians shared their award-winning projects from the regional science and engineering fair. The summer board and planning meeting brought fresh faces and input.

Irene Cromer, President  
Susan Bardenhagen, Membership

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## Wytheville

The branch continued to grow in the fall of 2023 when it enrolled six new members. The new members were celebrated at a dinner in September. The branch's efforts last year netted three free National memberships for 2023-24. They were awarded to the "old guard" and were appreciated. The members proudly honored Anna Ray Roberts for the distinction of becoming a lifetime member with 50 years in the branch. It was a real treat in October to have a visit from VA State President Lane Stone. A group of dedicated branch members has again organized the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring STEM Workshop for March 16.

Alma L Watson  
President

## AAUW of Virginia State Conventions/Conferences/Annual Business Meetings

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Hosting Branches</b>	<b>State Presidents</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Branch When Elected</b>
1925	1. Williamsburg	Thelma Brown Heffelfinger	1925-28	Williamsburg
1926	2. Richmond	Thelma Brown Heffelfinger		
1927	3. Lynchburg	Thelma Brown Heffelfinger		Sweet Briar at Lynchburg
1928	4. Norfolk	Thelma Brown Heffelfinger		
1929	5. Roanoke	Jeanette Kelly	1928-30	Williamsburg
1930	6. Williamsburg	Jeanette Kelly	1930-32	Lynchburg
1931	7. Richmond	Elizabeth Otay		
1932	8. Lynchburg	Elizabeth Otay		
1933	9. Charlottesville	Dr. Marion Smith	1932-36	Roanoke
1934	10. Newport News	Dr. Marion Smith		
1935	11. Blacksburg	Dr. Marion Smith	1936-38	Newport News
1936	12. Petersburg	Dr. Marion Smith		
1937	13. Norfolk	Bernice Whitlock Bowles		
1938	14. Roanoke	Bernice Whitlock Bowles		
1939	15. Rockbridge	Dr. Gillie A. Larew	1938-40	Lynchburg
1940	16. Winchester	Dr. Gillie A. Larew		
1941	17. Charlottesville	Nora Fraser	1940-42	Charlottesville
1942	18. Staunton	Nora Fraser		
1943	19. Roanoke	Marie Garrett	1942-46	Roanoke
1944	20. Roanoke	Marie Garrett		
1945	Meeting Canceled	Marie Garrett		
1946	21. Wytheville	Marie Garrett		
1947	22. Charlottesville	Dr. Mildred Taylor	1946-50	Staunton
1948	23. Norfolk	Dr. Mildred Taylor		
1949	24. Alexandria	Dr. Mildred Taylor		
1950	25. Staunton	Dr. Mildred Taylor		
1951	26. Richmond	Dr. Janet MacDonald	1950-52	Roanoke
1952	27. Richmond	Dr. Janet MacDonald		
1953	28. Hampton	Helen D. Schubert	1952-54	Harrisonburg
1954	29. Harrisonburg	Helen D. Schubert		
1955	30. Staunton	Amy S. Lamkin	1954-56	Arlington
1956	31. Roanoke	Amy S. Lamkin		
1957	32. Richmond	Bernice B. Lovitt	1956-58	Norfolk
1958	33. Charlottesville	Bernice B. Lovitt		
1959	34. Fredericksburg	Elizabeth S. Carson	1958-60	Lynchburg
1960	35. Roanoke	Elizabeth S. Carson		
1961	36. Norfolk	Elizabeth E. Sale	1960-62	Richmond

## AAUW of Virginia

### State Conventions/Conferences/Annual Business Meetings

<b>Year</b>	<b>Hosting Branches</b>	<b>State Presidents</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Branch When Elected</b>
1962	37. Newport News	Elizabeth E. Sale		
1963	38. Abingdon	Mary Thrasher	1962-64	Norfolk
1964	39. Charlottesville	Mary Thrasher		
1965	40. Arlington, Northern District	Dr. A. Marguerite Risley	1964-66	Lynchburg
1966	41. Richmond	Dr. A. Marguerite Risley		
1967	42. Lynchburg	Frances H. Engel	1966-67	Blacksburg
1968	43. Virginia Beach	Adelaide H. Stegman	1967-70	Arlington
1969	44. Blacksburg	Adelaide H. Stegman		
1970	45. Waynesboro	Adelaide H. Stegman		
1971	46. Fredericksburg	Doris DeHart	1970-72	Richmond
1972	47. Williamsburg	Doris DeHart		
1973	48. Roanoke, Lynchburg, Bedford	Vera Huckel	1972-74	Newport News
1974	49. Charlottesville	Vera Huckel		
1975	50. Falls Church, McLean, Reston-Herndon, Springfield-Annandale	Jean B. Nichols	1974-76	Waynesboro
1976	51. Norfolk	Jean B. Nichols		
1977	52. Harrisonburg	Rosalind E. Exum	1976-78	Hampton
1978	53. Richmond	Rosalind E. Exum		
1979	54. Blacksburg	Dr. Elaine A. Lailas	1978-80	Mt. Vernon and McLean
1980	55. Alexandria	Dr. Elaine A. Lailas		
1981	56. McLean, Reston-Herndon, Vienna	Barbara F. Wright	1980-82	Alexandria
1982	57. Springfield- Annandale, Arlington	Barbara F. Wright		
1983	58. Roanoke	Virginia Kennedy	1982-84	Blacksburg
1984	59. Virginia Beach	Virginia Kennedy		
1985	60. Lynchburg	Christine Hernandez	1984-86	Virginia Beach
1986	61. Fredericksburg	Christine Hernandez		
1987	62. Charlottesville	Kristin Moyer	1986-88	Vienna Area
1988	63. Hampton	Kristin Moyer		

## AAUW of Virginia

### State Conventions/Conferences/Annual Business Meetings

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Hosting Branches</b>	<b>State Presidents</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Branch When Elected</b>
1989	64. Harrisonburg	Kay Gravatt	1988-90	Portsmouth
1990	65. Bon Air, Richmond	Kay Gravatt		
1991	66. Great Falls, McLean, Reston-Herndon, Vienna	Susan Hoover	1990-91	Hampton
1992	67. Blacksburg	Jan Harrison	1991-92	Virginia Beach
1993	68. Roanoke	Dr. Laurel Davis	1992-94	Blacksburg
1994	69. State Board at Charlottesville	Dr. Laurel Davis		
1995	70. Alexandria, Arlington, Mt. Vernon, Springfield- Annandale	Marion Stillson, Esq.	1994-96	Reston
1996	71. Chesterfield	Marion Stillson, Esq.		
1997	72. Lynchburg	Nancy Richardson, Peggy Stotz	1996-98	McLean Area
1998	73. Hampton Roads District in Williamsburg	Nancy Richardson, Peggy Stotz		
1999	74. Charlottesville, Waynesboro	Neola Waller	1998-2000	Virginia Beach
2000	75. Fredericksburg, Culpeper, Woodbridge, Greater Manassas	Neola Waller		
2001	76. Staunton, Northwest District	Neola Waller	2000-2002	Virginia Beach
2002	77. Norfolk, Hampton Roads District	Neola Waller		
2003	78. Roanoke Valley	Theresa Merkel	2002-2004	Winchester
2004	79. Fairfax City Northern District	Theresa Merkel		
2005	80. Richmond	Dr. Nancy D. Joyner	2004-2006	Springfield-Annandale
2006	81. Winchester	Dr. Nancy D. Joyner		

## AAUW of Virginia

### State Conventions/Conferences/Annual Business Meetings

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Hosting Branches</b>	<b>State Presidents</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Branch When Elected</b>
2007	82. Virginia Beach, Hampton Road District	Rosemary Plum Laura Wimmer	2006-2008	Virginia Beach Richmond
2008	83. Roanoke Valley, SW Branches	Rosemary Plum Laura Wimmer		
2009	84. Richmond, Bon Air	Laura Wimmer Dianne Blais	2008-2010	Richmond Fairfax City
2010	85. Northern District	Laura Wimmer Dianne Blais		
2011	86. Wytheville	Caroline Pickens	2010-2012	McLean Area
2012	87. Southeast District	Caroline Pickens		
2013	88. Richmond	Caroline Pickens	2012-2014	
2014	89. Smith Mountain	Caroline Pickens		
2015	90. Northwest District	Sandra Lawrence Patsy Quick	2014-2016	Woodbridge Mt. Vernon
2016	91. Northern District	Sandra Lawrence Patsy Quick		
2017	92. Charlottesville <sup>1</sup>	Sandra Lawrence Patsy Quick	2016-2018	
2018	93. Southeast District	Sandra Lawrence Patsy Quick		
2019	94. Roanoke Valley	Carol Stephens Leslie Tourigny	2018-2020	Greater Richmond Alexandria and Virginia Beach
2020	95. Northern District <sup>2</sup>	Carol Stephens Leslie Tourigny		
2021	96. State Board <sup>3</sup>	Suzanne Rothwell Leslie Tourigny	2020-2022	Vienna Area Alexandria and Virginia Beach
2022	97. Northwest District <sup>4</sup> State Board	Suzanne Rothwell Leslie Tourigny	2020-2022	Vienna Area Alexandria
2023	98. Southeast District <sup>5</sup>	Lane Stone	2022-2024	Alexandria
2024	99. Southwest District	Lane Stone		

## AAUW of Virginia State Conventions/Conferences/Annual Business Meetings

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### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Only an Annual Business Meeting was held.

<sup>2</sup> Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the State Conference to be held in Alexandria was canceled. A virtual Annual Business Meeting was held.

<sup>3</sup> A virtual State Conference was held, including a virtual Annual Business Meeting.

<sup>4</sup> The State Conference was held in two parts: Part 1 was an in-person event, hosted by the Northwest District, and Part 2 was a virtual Annual Business Meeting, conducted by the State Board.

<sup>5</sup> The State Conference was an in-person event, hosted by the Southeast District. A virtual Annual Business Meeting was conducted by the State Board.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

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The American Association of University Women of Virginia acknowledges the Indigenous peoples who are the original inhabitants of the lands we are on today and pay our respect to their tribal members past and present.



**MONACAN INDIAN NATION**



**OCCANEECHI BAND  
OF THE SAPONI NATION**

# AAUW OF VIRGINIA STATE CONFERENCE



**ADVERTISEMENTS**

**THE PAST STATE PRESIDENTS  
of AAUW OF VIRGINIA**

**THANK ALL BRANCHES IN VIRGINIA  
FOR THEIR  
COURAGE, CONNECTION and COMMITMENT  
TO OUR AAUW**

*Dianne Blais Kay Gravatt Susan Hoover  
Nancy D. Joyner Elaine Lailas  
Sandra Lawrence Theresa Merkel Kristin Moyer  
Caroline Pickens Rosemary Plum Patsy Quick  
Nancy Richardson Suzanne Rothwell  
Carol Stephens Marion Stillson Peggy Stotz  
Leslie Tourigny Neola Waller Laura Wimmer*



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# BREAKING NEWS

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**Celebrating Neola Waller for her 50 Years of  
Courage, Commitment and Connection to AAUW**

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**Virginia Beach Branch**

Thank you, Neola for your courage in leading the branch more than once as President. Your faithful commitment as By Laws Chair and your historic knowledge of the organization has kept us all connected. In addition, we thank for you serving as state President, Legacy Circle Chair and numerous positions with AAUW of Virginia and National.



The 11 branches in the Northern District are all in with **COURAGE CONNECTION, and COMMITMENT.**

### **The Northern District**

**Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax City, Falls Church Area, Greater Manassas, McLean Area, Mt. Vernon, Springfield/Annandale, Reston-Herndon Area, Vienna Area, Woodbridge**



Commitment

Courage

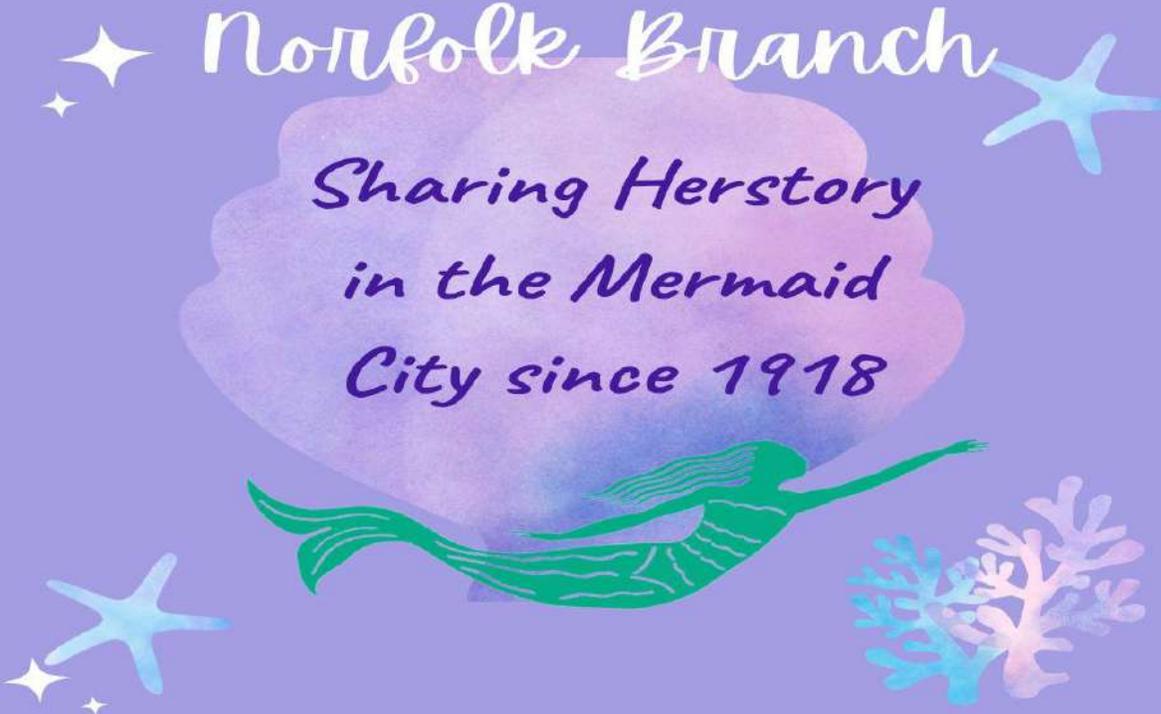
*Wytheville  
Branch*

Connection

Commitment to our community through  
STEM, Scholarships & Voter Education

*Norfolk Branch*

*Sharing Herstory  
in the Mermaid  
City since 1918*





## *AAUW McLean Area*

***Salutes Our Dedicated Members and Generous Donors  
for All They Contribute to Our Branch and AAUW***

***\* \* \****

**Our highlights for 2023-24 include:**

- Increased community engagement with Graham Road Title 1 School
  - Scholarships to women returning to college at HBCU Bennett College and Trinity Washington University
    - Expansion of our local STEM awards
    - Activism on voting and key policy issues
      - 5-Star status in AAUW
      - A new DE&I film group





Arlington AAUW  
celebrates its 80th  
Anniversary this year!

Founded in 1944 our branch remains dedicated to  
Advocacy - Education - Friendship



AAUW OF VIRGINIA CONFERENCE 2024

### SMITH MOUNTAIN BRANCH

In 2023, we raised funds for three scholarships for college women from our community, enabled elementary school-age girls to attend science camp, bought and donated books about empowered women to local schools, and participated in state-wide policy initiatives on women's issues—what a great year!



L to R: Branch President Betsy DeWeese, former Scholarship Recipient Dr. E. Knick DVM, SMAAUW Branch 2023 Scholarship Recipients C. Hampton, A. Giles, and A. Allen, and Scholarship Committee Chair Marsha Protjnsky.

*Courage, Commitment, Connection*

## Collaboration for Community Enrichment

**Founded in 1950**, the Falls Church branch of AAUW has been a vital part of the Falls Church community for more than 70 years. During that time the branch has contributed, through annual book sales, more than \$170,000 in college scholarship funds to support young women graduating from our local high schools. In addition to raising funds for these scholarships, attendance at the book sale has become a “must” for local and regional bibliophiles and is now held in partnership with the Falls Church Village Improvement and Preservation Society’s (VPIS) spring market.



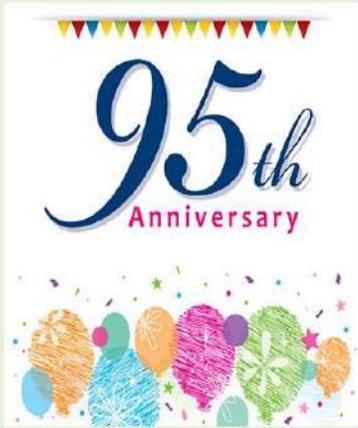
The branch also participates in the annual VPIS Tree Fest, decorating a holiday tree for auction at the local pub. This year’s tree decorations celebrated children’s reading and our partnership with Graham Road Elementary School, a Title 1 school in our community. The tree, with decorations made by members, earned the “Best Theme” award.

Partnering with local organizations to enrich the life of the community, contributing funds to support the higher education goals of local students, and sponsoring programs that highlight the contributions and successes of local women remains a core element of our community mission.





**Mt. Vernon AAUW:  
We're all in with  
COURAGE,  
CONNECTION,  
and COMMITMENT!**



## AAUW of HARRISONBURG 1929—2024

### Research Advocacy Education

*Congratulations, Harrisonburg. Founded April 15, 1929, at Madison College (now JMU), for 95 years you have “thought” globally and “acted” locally to advance women’s rights: the ERA, GOTV, pay equity, educational and professional equality, Title IX, STEM, paid medical / parental leave, DC Women’s March, International Women’s Day, scholarships for promising young women. Thank you.*



## Portsmouth Branch is proud of 82 years of service and of our 50+ year members



**Dot Hill**  
Branch President  
1981-83, 2005-07



**Kay Gravatt**  
Branch President  
1979-81  
VA Division (State) President  
1988-90



**Wanda Russo**  
Branch President  
1989-91

# Springfield-Annandale Branch

## Courage, Commitment, Connection



Five Star Branch



Springfield-Annandale Branch member, Sandy Lawrence, awarded AAUW of Virginia's Named Honorees for 2023



Left to right: Hayley Gaylord, Madeline Huott, Sydney Berkeley, Marilyn Hernandez Alvarez

Four high school Juniors honored by the Branch for their efforts to create *Inclusion* in their schools

Toured Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery

500+ postcards addressed for Reclaim Our Vote

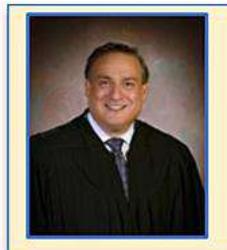


Spring Fling 2023 guest speaker Renee Wynn, former Chief Information Officer for NASA

### 2023 Guest Speakers



Penny Gross, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Virginia Supreme Court Justice, Thomas P. Mann



Delegate Kathy Tran

Join us!

May 3, 2024



Springfield Golf & Country Club



Honoring

# Kate Hanley

**Reston-Herndon AAUW salutes Kate Hanley: a community leader, Chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board and member of the Virginia Electoral Association Board of Directors.**



Ms. Hanley has a long career in service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and our local community. She is a former Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Providence District Supervisor, and Fairfax County School Board Member. She served on The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors; the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the regional Transportation Planning Board, and is currently on the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Board of Directors. Locally, she was appointed by Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn to lead the Reston Town Center North task force. She calls Reston home.



**Reston-Herndon AAUW thanks Ms. Hanley and members of AAUW-VA who serve as election officers to support our free and fair election process.**

[HTTPS://AAUW-VA.AAUW.NET/](https://AAUW-VA.AAUW.NET/)



**SCOTTISH WALK HONORING FAMOUS ALEXANDRIAN WOMEN AND SUFFRAGISTS**

**WOMEN'S 131 MILE WALK HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN IN VIRGINIA**

**CHRIST HOUSE MEALS FOR THE HOMELESS**

**AAUW ALEXANDRIA**

**NCWSSL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NVCC ALEXANDRIA STUDENTS**

**DONATIONS FOR NVCC STUDENT TEXTBOOKS**

**DONATIONS FOR NVCC NIGHTHAWK NEST FOOD PANTRY FOR STUDENTS**

**LITTLE THEATER OF ALEXANDRIA**

**GED BOOKS FOR TOGETHER WE BAKE CLIENTS**

**DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB**

**MENTORING**

**GIFT CARDS AND TOYS FOR ALX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER OCCUPANTS**

**GREAT DECISIONS**

**MEETING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**MEETING WITH POET LAUREATE**

**LOBBY DAY**

**POSTCARDS ENCOURAGING VOTING**



## HAMPTON BRANCH

Celebrating a Heritage of Courage, Commitment, and Connection in our Community through programs for girls, the arts, women's programs, and local/state government



Following the footsteps of our courageous leaders in fundraising and the arts



*Dorothy Pride (fundraising)*



*Lona Ross (the arts and public policy)*



*Joan Aaron (arts and life long learning)*



Our commitment to AAUW continues through branch training, fundraising, and DEIB and STEM programs for girls



Community connections continues to grow as we partner with organizations, such as Read Across America, Meals on Wheels, and Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

