



U P D A T E S

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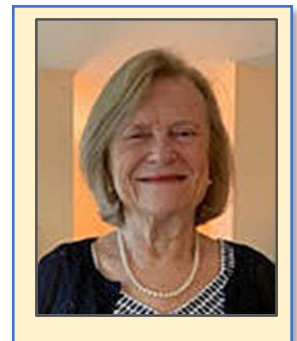
Issue 10

President's Message

Ann Sauberman, Co-President

Since its first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change. AAUW's main mission is to advance "equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research." In the years leading to 1972, AAUW was instrumental in lobbying and advocating for the passage of Title IX. This is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education and protects staff and students in any educational institution or program that receives federal funds. This includes local school districts, colleges and universities, for-profit schools, career and technical education programs. I was a member of the Falls Church AAUW Branch and then the Springfield-Annandale Branch in the late 1960's and early 1970's. I remember many letter writing campaigns, phone calls and meetings with legislators to promote the passage of this bill. Since 1972, AAUW has advocated the strengthening and monitoring of the provisions of this important law.

This March, I was glued to the TV as I saw direct results and success to women athletes from Title IX. On March 7, Caitlin Clark, a senior from Iowa University, became the NCAA all time lead scorer. She won the overall record for both men and women's collegiate basketball. Clark is an inspiration for many women athletes as well as an example of the progress made for women athletics due to state Equal Rights Amendments and Title IX. Many sport experts believe that Clark's success could not have happened without the landmark passing of Title IX in 1972. Title IX revolutionized opportunities available for women



President's Message *continues on page 2.*

AAUW National Website: <https://www.aauw.org/>
AAUW-VA Website: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/>

Springfield-Annandale Website: <https://sprann-va.aauw.net/>
Like us on Facebook. Search *Springfield-Annandale AAUW*

AAUW Mission Statement

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Vision: Equity for all. Values: Non-partisan. Fact based.

AAUW Diversity Statement

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 socio-economic status.

President's Message *continued from page 1*

and girls to participate in athletics around the country, but also prohibited sex discrimination and sexual harassment in higher education. It provided career guidance, student financial aid, insurance benefits, and equal employment. Caitlin Clark's fantastic achievement is an important testament to the power of the many legal victories of Title IX and the state ERAs.

Clark's success serves as an important reminder of the success made in the fight for gender equality in athletics. She was rated number one in the recent basketball professional draft and is on her way to a professional career. It is important to note that not only Catlin Clark able to rise in women athletics. Many other women like Angel Reese, Paige Bueckers, Kanilla Cardosa, and Aziaha James were leaders in their universities and won championship games at March Madness.

Statistics prove that there have been great improvements. Thanks to Title IX, women make up over 56 percent of America's college students, women hold 48 percent of tenure track positions, and the number of female athletics climbed more than 10 times. In 1972, only 700 high school girls played on school teams; in 2018, the number of girls rose to 280,00. But there is much more work to be done. AAUW's research revealed that two thirds of college students experience sexual harassment. Girls have 2 million fewer chances to play sports in high school than boys and the number is much less for African American and Hispanic girls. Title IX not only covers athletics but applies to many areas of education. Other upsetting statistics are that only 21 percent of engineering majors and 19 percent of computer science majors are women. AAUW and its partner organizations have serious work to do. (Refer to the *AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund* www.aauw.org/resources/legal/laf/)

ESPN announced that the Women's Final Four March Madness championship games charged approximately double the entrance fee to that of the men's games.

In summary, so many more girls and women are succeeding in sports and other educational opportunities. It was so exciting to watch the women collegiate championships in March and hear the crowded university stadiums cheering for their star performers. It will be wonderful to watch Caitlin Clark and other leading seniors rise in their professional careers. It is important, however, not to ignore the many girls and women that have not benefitted from the equality requirements written in Title IX. Throughout the country, AAUW is monitoring high school Title IX programs and are finding continued discrimination. The National AAUW is working on strategies to strengthen their fight to improve and spread the effects of Title IX by working with many education coalitions. It is important that AAUW members continue our support of Title IX and its fight for women's equity.

The AAUW Board of Directors and Governance Committee have proposed a Bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW.

Vote your choice to eliminate the degree requirement or keep it.

Voting closes May 15

AAUW-VA Conference 2024 – April 12-13



Sandy Lawrence and Judy Baldwin attended the Virginia State AAUW Conference in Lynchburg, April 12-13.

Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar, President of Lynchburg University, the keynote speaker, gave an excellent presentation on leadership. Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Membership Advocacy, talked about Title IX, the ERA, AAUW Funds for Graduate Education, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), the Five Star Program, Legacy Circle, and the Open Membership Amendment.

The Northern District will host next year's State Conference March 28-29, 2025. This will be the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Virginia Division of AAUW.

In the meantime, a Regional Conference which so far involves members from eleven Eastern states, will meet September 27-29 at Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center in Glen Allen, near Richmond. A series of regional conferences is replacing a national convention for AAUW in hopes of reducing costs and increasing attendance. Seventy-six members from seventeen branches attended.

Sandy Lawrence and Sharon Zackula of the Falls Church Branch were elected Northern District Co-Representatives for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026

Susan Burk and Leslie Tourigny's term as Northern District Co-Representatives will end on June 30.

Virginia General Assembly – April 17

Denise M. Murden, Janine Greenwood, Co-Vice Presidents, Public Policy, AAUW of Virginia

The Virginia General Assembly (GA) reconvened for the day on April 17. As predicted, they were unable to find the two-thirds vote necessary to override the Governor's vetoes. Key legislation stands as outlined in our April 10 email. In that email, we did not mention two bills of interest to our members that were passed and signed:

- HB633 which combats labor trafficking.
- HB994 which ends child marriage, often a path to sex trafficking

Much remains in play in the budget, however, with both the GA negotiators and the Governor agreeing to set aside their budget proposals and meet to negotiate a new budget to be unveiled on May 13. The GA would then reconvene on May 15. This *Washington Post* article (shareable) provides details of how this happened: <https://wapo.st/3W6ZC6u>.

Many of our education priorities are dependent on the budget. Stay tuned and you will hear from us again in May.

Branch Program Meeting – Inclusion Awards – April 20

Judy Baldwin, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Representative



Kaylee Boateng received the Student Inclusion Award at the April 20 general meeting. She spoke about the club she founded and continues to lead at John R. Lewis High School in Springfield. Called “Girls Needs Love,” the group gives girls a place to belong, feel respected and able to discuss topics they can’t elsewhere. Some activities are just for fun and an outlet for creativity.

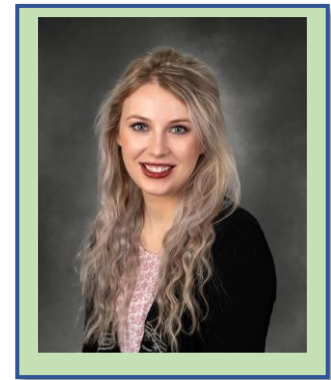
After her presentation, a video from AAUW was shown with pauses for discussion on civility, creating a welcome place for new members, and the proposed bylaws amendment to change membership requirements.



Spring Fling – May 3

Ann Sauberman, Spring Fling Coordinator

By the time this publication reaches you, there will be a flurry of last-minute Spring Fling details to settle. We know Spring Fling on **May 3** will be a huge success this year, mainly due to our featured speaker, Ms. Annie Ray, the Annandale High School Orchestra Teacher, and Performing Arts Department Chair, who won both the 2023 Fairfax County Secondary Teacher of the Year and the 2024 GRAMMY Music Educator Award. She advocates for universal access to a quality music education and has created the Crescendo Orchestra program. This innovative class was designed to bring music and orchestra experience to High School students with severe developmental or intellectual disabilities. Another innovation, Annie Ray’s parent orchestra, has given over 200 parents the opportunity to learn to play their students instruments.



Annie Ray

A robust Silent Auction and Cash and Carry table will round out the events of the day. Read all about this event in the June issue of *UPDATES*.

2024 AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting – May 4

Lane Stone, President, AAUW of Virginia

Attend the AAUW of Virginia Annual Business Meeting, held on **May 4**, at 10:00 A.M. via Zoom. The meeting is scheduled to end at 12:00 Noon.

This is an opportunity for us to share with you the activities of our state board and the achievements of our branches. You will also have the chance to meet this year's candidates for state elected positions. They are:

- Lane Stone for President
- Tess Evans for Vice President for Communications
- Susan Burk and Leslie Tourigny for Co-Vice Presidents for Program
- Diane Schrier for Vice President for Public Policy

There is no registration fee. However, you must register in advance to receive the login information.

Register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1foinD9WTNqB1W_iCZDHqQ#/registration

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with the subject, “AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting,” containing the Zoom log-in information to the webinar.

The Business Meeting Program Book link will be emailed to you and will be available on the AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting webpage one week before the meeting.

Branch Program Meeting – Branch Picnic – June 8

Irene McGhee, Amy Crolius, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs

We have Pavilion #2 at Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton, same as last year. Time is 12:00 P.M., date is **June 8**. Installation of officers for next year will be announced at the picnic.

Reservation orders for your choice of picnic food will be sent to you after Spring Fling. Watch your email for upcoming details. Bring a friend.



Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

GOTV

AAUW has extensive resources, including how to get involved and future election-related webinars. For information on how to register for future webinars, check out the AAUW Election Resources page:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/get-involved-in-elections/>

AAUW also has developed a primer on priorities to consider when evaluating candidates on the ballot. To learn more about the Voter Issue Guide and other voter engagement resources, go to the AAUW Action Fund website: <https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-issue-guide/>.

AAUW presented its first election-related webinar on April 17. You can find the recording at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5H6kOPDtFI>.

Voter Registration Training

Our Branch members have regularly stepped up to support voter registration efforts organized by the League of Women Voters. It is necessary to complete and certify that you have completed mandatory voter registration training. These certifications expire on June 30.

We will not stop until women have equal pay for equal work!

2024 Equal Pay Day Calendar

- All Women's Equal Pay Day – March 12
- Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Women's Equal Pay Day – April 3
- LGBTQIA+ Equal Pay Awareness Day – June 13
- Black Women's Equal Pay Day – July 9
- Moms' Equal Pay Day – August 7
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) Women's Equal Pay Day – August 28
- Latina Equal Pay Day – October 3
- Native Women's Equal Pay Day – November 21

“The 2024 U.S. election will have a major impact on gender equity in education, women's economic security, and reproductive and civil rights.

The good news? When women vote, we change the conversation.”

(AAUW Action Fund)

Evening Book Group – Virtual

The Evening Book Group will meet via Zoom Thursday, **May 2**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *All But My Life*, by Gerda Weissmann Klein, Mussaret Sheikh is the scheduled reviewer.

The group will meet live on **June 6** for a discussion of the 2024-2025 Reading List at Debbie Gilligan's home.

Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information.

Morning Book Group – Live

The Morning Book Group will meet live **May 9**, 10:00 A.M., and for a discussion of *Horse*, by Gerladine Brooks. Irene McGhee will be the reviewer and Betty Sheehan will host. Contact Jo Domingues for more information.

The group will meet live on **June 13** for a discussion of the 2024-2025 Reading List at Deborah Dodd's home.

After five years, Ginny Wells and Jo Domingues are stepping down as coordinators for the Morning Book Group. Wendy Cleland-Hamnett and Deborah Dodd are taking over the positions starting at the **June 13** meeting.

Movies at Midweek

Bev Wise and Helen Cassidy, Movie Mavens

The next meeting of Movies at Midweek is **May 15**. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.

CALENDAR

May 2, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 6
May 3, 11:00 A.M.	Spring Fling	page 4
May 4, 10:00 A.M.	AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting – Virtual	page 4
May 9, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 6
May 15	Voting for Bylaws Amendment Ends	
May 15	Movies at Midweek	page 6
June 6, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Live	page 6
June 8, 12:00 P.M.	Branch Picnic at Occoquan Regional Park	page 5
June 13, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 6

Newsletter articles for June UPDATES due May 24



June *UPDATES* will be the last issue of the 2023-2024 membership year

Judy Titterton, Editor