

AAUW Vision

of Virginia Special Edition 2024

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

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

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Online Voting for AAUW of Virginia's One Member/One Vote 2024 Voter Guide

THE VOTING PROCESS FOR THE ELECTION OF STATE OFFICERS AND APPROVAL OF PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2024-2026 WILL BEGIN MAY 7. You must cast your online vote by the deadline of May 26, 2024, because we need a quorum of seven (7) percent of the membership for the election. If we don't have a quorum, the new state officers cannot take office on July 1, 2024. Please take the time to vote.

HERE IS THE SCHEDULE OF 2024 VOTING:

- **Until April 10:** Verify that your email address is correct in Community Hub
- **May 7:** Online voting opens
- **May 26:** Online voting closes at 11:45 p.m.

VOTING WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE TO ALL AAUW OF VIRGINIA MEMBERS WITH EMAIL ADDRESSES.

New members who have joined by **April 15** will be eligible to vote in the 2024 election.

WATCH FOR YOUR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS IN EMAILS BETWEEN APRIL AND MAY 2024.

Do not ignore emails from AAUW of Virginia during April and May! These will contain instructions and reminders about voting. Again this year, we will be using software from an outside vendor, ElectionBuddy, to conduct our election and tally the results. Therefore, individual votes cannot be seen by AAUW of Virginia members. We will let you know when the link to the electronic ballot is emailed to members so that, in case you do not receive the email, you can check your email junk or spam files. Questions concerning the election can be directed to Sandy Lawrence (sandyauwatjuno.com).

Sandy Lawrence
Voting & Elections Committee Chair

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2024-2026:

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

Read about the candidates on pages 2-4.

Tammie Mullins-Rice
Nominating Committee Chair

Meet Your Candidates

Candidate for State President

Lane Stone



Lane Stone is running for re-election as AAUW-VA president. What she enjoyed most about her first term was visiting branches and getting to know members around Virginia. She has been associated with AAUW for 20+ years - first as a national member and then as a member and officer of the Alexandria Branch. She is a past co-president of the branch (2017-2021) and currently serves as the newsletter editor. She fostered a close collaboration between the branch and the Women's Center at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and served on the Center's External Advisory Board. She is a graduate of Georgia State University and serves on the university's political science department advisory board. She has a post-graduate certificate in Antiquities Theft and Art Crime.

Lane is a published author. Her first series was the *Tiara Investigation Mysteries*, followed by a co-written standalone romantic suspense, *Maltipoo's Are Murder*. Next, she wrote the *Pet Palace Mysteries* series. Her first thriller, *The Collector*, was published in 2022 and was followed by *The Canvas* in 2023. *Dead Men Don't Decorate* was published in November 2022, and written as Cordy Abbott.

When not writing, Lane enjoys traveling. Volunteering for worthy causes has always been a part of her life. She lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband, Larry Korb, and their standard schnauzers, Cordy and Emma.

Candidate for Vice President for Communications

Tess Evans

Tess Evans, public historian and writer for Homes.com, aspires to educate the public about America's history, advocates for education and equality, and supports female athletics. She received her Bachelor of Science in history from the University of North Alabama and a Master's in public history from James Madison University. Tess has been a curator and digital history specialist for the Town of Wytheville Department of Museums and a grant writer for the American Civil War Museum. She currently serves as the Greater Richmond Branch's historian, as well as the technology manager and *Vision* layout editor for the AAUW of Virginia state board. In her spare time, Tess loves to paint, sing, exercise, cheer for the Kansas Jayhawks, read, and spend time with family and friends.



Meet Your Candidates

Candidates for Co-Vice Presidents for Program

Susan Burk



Susan has been a member of AAUW since 2007, and since July 2022, has served as an AAUW-VA Northern District co-representative, a position she previously held from 2017 to 2018. She also serves as the public policy chair for the Springfield-Annandale Branch. From 2018-2022, she served as the AAUW-VA co-vice president for public policy. During her terms, she and her co-vice presidents increased AAUW-VA's visibility and presence state-wide in support of ERA ratification, closing the gender pay gap, paid family and medical leave, and paid sick days, among many other issues. Before joining the AAUW-VA state board, Susan served from 2015 to 2017 on a multi-branch AAUW committee supporting STEMtastics, a program of hands-on workshops for middle school girls.

Susan retired from the U.S. Department of State in November 2012 after a 36-year career in nuclear arms control, nonproliferation, and national security policy that included senior-level positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the former U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. She retired after serving as the special representative of President Obama for nuclear nonproliferation, with the rank of ambassador.

In addition to her work with AAUW-VA advocating for equity for women and girls, she has served on several boards of non-governmental organizations focused on national security and arms control and as a mentor for several next-generation national security specialists. She holds a BA in political science from Trinity College, Washington, DC (now Trinity Washington University), and an MA in national security studies from Georgetown University. Susan is married and has two grown, married children and three grandchildren.

Leslie Tourigny

Leslie joined AAUW in 2008 as a member of the Virginia Beach Branch, where she served a term as president-elect, then president, and then newsletter editor. She relocated to Alexandria in 2014, joined the Alexandria Branch, spent one year as branch public policy chair, and is currently the vice president for program. She maintains dual membership in the Alexandria and Virginia Beach branches.

Leslie served two terms as co-president of AAUW-VA from 2018 to 2022. Since July 2022, Leslie has served as an AAUW-VA Northern District co-representative. She first served AAUW-VA as voting and elections committee chair in 2013. In November 2013, the state board appointed her to fill a vacancy as vice president for public policy. She was then elected to this position in 2014 and 2016.



Leslie retired in 2006 from a 32-year career with the federal government, where she worked for seven different agencies, as an equal employment opportunity (EEO) manager, an employee development manager, and a congressional liaison officer. She is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, and during her federal employment, she was selected as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow for 2001-2002. From 2006-2022, she was an EEO consultant and mediator, and for over 20 years was certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia as a General District Court mediator.

Leslie currently serves as secretary of the Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee and as an Alexandria elections officer. When she is not traveling, she is either planning a trip or dreaming about traveling. She has visited all 50 states. Leslie holds a BA from the State University of New York at Albany (now the University at Albany) in political science and an MA in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Meet Your Candidates

Candidate for Vice President for Public Policy

Diane Schrier



Diane joined AAUW in 2004 in Florida, and during her tenure, served as director of the Central Florida Region, state public policy chair, and Ocala Branch president twice and public policy chair. In 2018, she joined the Alexandria Branch, where she is currently co-president, and was previously public policy chair. In the past, she was a member of the AAUW National Legal Advocacy Committee and has been a member of the AAUW National Public Policy Committee for three terms and is currently co-chair. Diane has organized lobby days for AAUW and other organizations and has spent time engaging with legislators to get bills passed in Florida and Virginia. Currently, Diane is co-chair of the AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference, which is being held in Glen Allen, Virginia, September 27-29, 2024.

Diane has had a varied career. She ran a talent agency; was a member of the Screen Actors Guild and Equity; performed a one-woman multi-media show; had her poetry presented at the first Lincoln Center Women's Interart Festival; was nominated for an award for an off-off-Broadway play; and traveled to Russia and Eastern Europe with acting troupes. When she left acting, she became the assistant to the Vice Chairman of Cushman and Wakefield, a commercial real estate firm, and was the first woman to receive her real estate license through their headquarters. She then became a financial controller at Citibank in New York City.

Diane was a candidate for school board twice, and after her daughters were born, became a community activist and a Girl Scout leader for her daughters' troops for 13 years. She was a high school teacher of American history and psychology in Ridgefield, Connecticut, followed by teaching middle school American history, civics, geography, and language arts in Ocala, Florida, for 14 years, followed by a year teaching the U.S. Constitution and litigation to senior citizens.

Diane graduated from Syracuse University with a BA degree in psychology, specializing in history and fine arts. She received an MBA from New York University in international business and finance. Diane is a widow and moved to Virginia in 2018 to be near her daughters and stepson, and to help take care of her granddaughters.

AAUW of Virginia Proposed 2024-2026 Public Policy Priorities

The AAUW of Virginia State Board recommends approval of the proposed Public Policy Priorities for 2024-2026 as stated below. The priorities align with the key issue areas that address equality, individual rights, social justice, economic security, and education. They are not rank-ordered.

There will be an opportunity for discussion and amendment of the proposed priorities at the virtual annual business meeting on May 4, 2024, before being placed on the ballot for members' votes.

The following priorities provide a basis for AAUW of Virginia members' advocacy for legislation and policies at the local and state levels.

Equality, Individual Rights, and Social Justice

- Support actions to make the ERA the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
- Support full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and voting rights and an amendment to Virginia's Constitution that affirms the right to vote
- Support self-determination of women's health decisions, including reproductive rights
- Advocate for freedom from violence and fear of violence, including bullying, hate crimes, sexual harassment, and human trafficking
- Advocate for diversity and inclusion

Economic Security

- Support adoption of measures to close the gender pay gap and promote fairness in compensation and benefits
- Support equitable access and advancement in employment and leadership opportunities for women
- Advocate and promote support for quality, affordable health care and childcare; paid family and medical leave and paid sick days; family planning services; and senior care and services
- Support a livable minimum wage standard and policies and programs to eliminate food and housing insecurities

Education

- Support Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education and the enforcement of such laws
- Support adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students in order to reduce educational disparities and ensure students have equitable access to distance learning and school meals
- Oppose use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary schools and to charter schools that do not adhere to the civil rights and accountability standards required of other public schools
- Promote and protect programs that meet the educational needs of girls and women at all levels, including STEM fields
- Support increased access to affordable higher education for women and disadvantaged populations