

AAUW Vision

of Virginia

Summer 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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A publication of
AAUW of Virginia
Vol. 100 No. 4



Join Us in Glen Allen, Virginia, for the Atlantic Regional Conference

September 27th-29th, 2024

at Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center.
Room prices are fixed at only \$129 per night plus tax and tourism fee.



Hotel Amenities

- The Tavern Bar & Grill
- The Glen Restaurant
- Fitness Center
- Free Wifi
- Room Service
- Free parking

Nearby Attractions

- Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
- James River Cellars Winery
- Richmond National Battlefield Park
- Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
- Children's Museum of Richmond
- Crossings Golf Course

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VIRGINIA VISION

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From Your
President

"After careful thought and reflection," Melinda French Gates began her letter of resignation from her position as co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with those words. Business and philanthropic analysts immediately dissected every word of her statement due to the significant influence of the organization in the space. Indeed, there are times when nonprofit organizations, such as AAUW, must react quickly and seize opportunities, but sometimes we need "careful thought and reflection."

I consider summer as a time to envision the future of AAUW-VA and our branches. This is when many of you have program planning meetings, and when newly elected officers with fresh ideas come on board.

This year, we have a new resource to help you turn these plans and dreams into reality. We are hosting AAUW's Atlantic Regional Conference, providing an opportunity to exchange success stories with members from states ranging from Florida to the northern border. We face many similar challenges, and it's time to share solutions. I hope to see many of you in Glen Allen, Virginia, on September 27-29, 2024, when we do just that.

In solidarity,
Lane Stone

District Representatives

Northern

Susan Burk
Leslie Tourigny

Northwest

Laura Wimmer

Southeast

Tammie
Mullins-Rice

Southwest

Anita Aymer

Membership

Membership Matters is an important monthly tool from National that provides invaluable insights on membership growth strategies for state and branch leaders. In recent weeks there was an urgent need for members to review and update contact information to receive ballots in the National election that ended on May 15.

The lesson learned from that event was that members have a responsibility to ensure profile information is correct in their Personal Snapshot. AAUW emails keep us connected to the latest news, webinars, and opportunities. Visit www.aauw.org to ensure your profile information is correct, especially your email. The Vice President for Membership for each branch can update changes for members when reported.

April 1st kicked off the FY25 membership dues collection process. National dues remain the same (\$72), Students (\$18.81), AAUW-VA dues (\$15), and branch dues amounts vary. Renewal notices and email reminders will be sent to branches that opted to have National send them. Three reminders will be sent to members before the renewal date. Branches that opted out of these reminders should receive notifications from the VP for Membership. We are rooting for 100% membership retention for FY25 for all branches.

The February 1st count for 2024 was received and AAUW-VA had 11 branches that retained 100% membership! Congratulations to Alexandria, Falls Church Area, Greater Manassas, Harrisonburg, Mt. Vernon, Newport News, Portsmouth, Smith Mountain, Vienna Area, Winchester, and Wytheville.

Ms. Magazines are available with new or renewal membership. Complete the link that comes with the “Thank you for your membership in AAUW” email.

Branches can hold special events to enroll new members under the Shape the Future Program. Branches receive free National memberships based on the number of members enrolled. Check the status report to see how many free memberships your branch has earned.

Laura Browning Greenfield
VP Membership and
Branch Development

THE AAUW PROGRAM

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

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

Laura Browning Greenfield
VP Membership and Branch Development



Why Donate to AAUW Funds?



As members of AAUW, both at the national and local levels, we play a crucial role in advancing the organization's mission. While our local branches are vital, the true source of our widest reach and greatest success for women lies in our national organization. Contributions to AAUW Funds have a significant impact, supporting women and girls across the nation. This collective effort would not be possible without the substantial resources that a national organization can allocate, which is challenging at the local level.

In 2019, AAUW National faced financial difficulties, prompting some members to redirect their contributions solely to the local level or refrain from contributing altogether. I am pleased to report that AAUW National has successfully addressed these challenges and is back on track. Charity Navigator, a leading charity assessment organization, awarded AAUW National a 4-star rating, the highest possible, with an impressive overall score of 97%, including a 99% rating for finances. It is now both safe and impactful to contribute to AAUW Funds at the national level.

There are several AAUW funds worth considering. I recommend three in particular:

1. **Leadership Fund:** This fund supports AAUW's efforts to increase the representation of women in leadership roles across all industries. Contributions to the Leadership Fund enable the success of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), an annual event that empowers young women with essential leadership skills. Your support ensures that hundreds of young women can attend, many of whom benefit from partial or full scholarships provided by AAUW.
2. **Economic Security Fund:** Focused on pay equity, workplace inclusion, and retirement security, this fund supports nationwide programs such as Start Smart and Work Smart. These initiatives empower graduating seniors and working women to negotiate fair salaries, benefits, and promotions. Work Smart is now accessible online at no cost through the AAUW website, benefiting thousands of women thanks to member and branch contributions.
3. **Greatest Needs Fund:** Offering the most significant impact, contributions to this fund provide flexibility for AAUW to allocate resources where they are needed most. While some programs are fully funded, others, including NCCWSL and Work Smart, require additional support to maintain their effectiveness. Donations to the Greatest Needs Fund empower AAUW to act swiftly in response to emerging events, amplifying our collective impact on the empowerment of women and girls.

These are just three among several funds you can explore on the AAUW website. If you wish to contribute to AAUW Funds, visit www.aauw.org. Look for the red "DONATE" button at the top right corner of the homepage, click on it, and follow the steps to make your donation.

Ann Johnson
AAUW Funds Chair

College and University Partners



The AAUW-VA College/University Partners Program co-chairs created a brief survey to gather more complete information regarding branch programs and activities with higher education institutions across the state. We surveyed branch presidents/administrators. While we received fewer responses than we had hoped, we did learn of the following initiatives branches have undertaken with institutions:

- Awarding scholarships
- Awarding scholarships for students to attend NCCWSL
- Branch member participating in Women's Center Leadership
- Sponsoring a fundraiser for the college's Educational Foundation
- Serving on college committees/boards
- Attending the Women to Women Conference, sponsored by the college
- Conducting meetings with college administrators to discuss opportunities for relationships
- Supplementing the college's career information dissemination efforts. The branch connects with individuals who have worked in unique careers and are willing to share their experiences with students.
- Conducting STEM workshops for girls in the School of Engineering Building
- Conducting the Pay Equity Program in the Student Center using free containers of popcorn. (Many female students wanted to know why male containers were full and theirs were only partially filled.)
- Partnering with community colleges in the delivery of a day-long STEM program for middle school girls
- Creating a matching contribution with an area university to sponsor two students attending NCCWSL
- Conducting voter registration at multiple college and university campuses
- Co-sponsoring with an academic department a lecture for students
- Branch members participating in university programs such as International Women's Day
- Bringing together university women's national championship softball team with four area high school teams to talk about balancing academic life with collegiate sports. (Leadership was a frequent theme, as was the need to support each other if a team is to be successful.)
- Donating items to a student clothing closet at a university campus
- Donating items to a community college food pantry
- Donating personal care items to students at a college

We should note that AAUW has developed a toolkit to assist branches with the recruitment, renewal, and engagement of current and prospective college/university members. The toolkit contains such resources as a flyer listing FAQs and a flyer to share with campuses describing online courses, such as salary negotiations and financial literacy, available to all College/University Partner members. Many of the questions we have been asked regarding the benefits to student members, as well as steps to enroll students and institutions in the College/University Partners Program, are answered here.

We are pleased to assist branches in this college/university effort. Please contact us if we may be of help.

Virginia College/
University
Partners

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

Barbara Woodlee
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Marsha Melkonian
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C/U Co-Chairs

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)

We were delighted to see many of you at the state conference in April and hope our presentation and handout on the RAVEN approach to addressing microaggressions were helpful. If you were not able to attend, we discussed this issue, as we have been during this year, and provided supportive steps to take when you experience cases of microaggressions at branch meetings or anytime out in public. As we close out the year, please keep the RAVEN approach in mind:

- R - Redirect (intervene, correct, pull aside)
- A - Ask probing questions for clarity (I think I heard you say/what did you mean to say?)
- V - Value clarification (in AAUW, we try to provide safe and welcoming environments)
- E - Emphasize your thoughts and feelings (that makes me feel...)
- N - Next steps (reflect on how you will manage future situations)

As we all look ahead to planning our programs and events for next year, let's be attentive to the environment that we provide for our branch members to feel comfortable and included!

Meg Tuccillo
DEIB Co-Vice President for DEI

*Show a Little
Love!*

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

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

Kristin Moyer
AAUW National Legacy Circle Team
kcmoyer65atgmail.com

The logo for the AAUW Legacy Circle. It features the text "AAUW" in a small, blue, sans-serif font above the word "Legacy" in a large, green, cursive script. Below "Legacy" is the word "Circle" in a smaller, green, cursive script.

Branches in Action

The **Alexandria Branch** has had a busy spring. VA Senator Adam Ebbin met with members in February and discussed the movement of priority legislation. Members helped with rating applications for high school students for the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. Once again, the **Mt. Vernon** and Alexandria Branches held a successful fundraiser at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. The production was “Murder On The Orient Express.” Members spoke at the Alexandria Celebrates Women walk from Alexandria to DC. The visit to the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum showed famous women who had accomplished much of what makes the world work today. The branch’s human trafficking forum featured two outstanding speakers, Erica Reid, Senior Engagement Manager, Blue Campaign, Dept. of Homeland Security; and Evelyn Chumbow, a survivor of labor trafficking and the Advocate and Survivor Leadership Director with the Human Trafficking Legal Center.

*Diane Schrier
Co-President*

Arlington Branch members had exciting programs this winter and spring, beginning with the Arlington Historical Society presentation on Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington project in January. Genealogy expert Eileen Bogdanoff was the February speaker. At the March meeting, former State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple was joined by Arlington-Alexandria League of Women Voters’ Co-President Pam Berg, former Delegate Karen Darner, and Susan Strauss from the Arlington Commission on the Status of Women in a panel discussion on legislative issues affecting women in the General Assembly. In April, after Arlington High School Science Fair winners presented their winning projects, AI and cybersecurity expert Jennifer Swann shared how she became interested in engineering as a child and introduced the students to resources they could use in the future. Members in May were delighted to award academic scholarships to three high school students and present an award to an outstanding educator. After surveying members, the branch finalized the calendar and programs for 2024-25.

The Arlington Community High School lunch bunch had an excellent presentation on personal money management in March, and at the last lunch in April, the students did a series of introspective exercises to gauge

Arlington Branch continued...

how their outlooks have changed since the fall. The book discussion group read “The Personal Librarian,” “Remarkably Bright Creatures,” and “Under the Sky We Make.” In July, after discussing “How It All Began” members will vote on selections for next year.

*Terry Bratt
President*

Since 2020, the **Falls Church Area Branch** has written more than 22,000 nonpartisan postcards in partnership with Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) in support of open and fair elections accessible to all voters. During 2023-2024, the branch wrote nearly 5,000 postcards giving voters the information needed to cast their ballots despite barriers to voting. Every voice deserves to be heard!

This spring, the branch awarded 18 scholarships to students representing three local public high schools and announced two grants to community organizations. The 18 students will attend colleges throughout the U.S. with interests ranging from nursing to environmental science to cybersecurity. The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program of Justice High School was awarded a grant to support visits to college campuses by college-bound students, allowing students to better understand why college is so important. The second grant, awarded to Welcoming Falls Church (WFC), will allow WFC to build, for students learning English, a lending library and to fund teacher initiatives to create class-specific visual aids for students. Both initiatives will augment students’ in-class literacy study. The branch’s fundraising successes were foundational to the branch’s granting of such awards.

*Sharon Zackula/Aida Uribe Loomis
Co-Presidents*

The **Hampton Branch** focused on public policy activities from January through April, following legislation tracked by AAUW and other like-minded organizations and being a Two-Minute Activist. The bills that were followed presented an ideal platform for our DEIB program for the year. Through mini-grant funding, a Zoom presentation and discussion were held with Dr. Veleka Gatling, AVP for Diversity and Inclusive Excellence (Old Dominion University), and high school girls at Phoebus High School. Personal needs pouches

Hampton Branch continued...

(santi-packs) were presented to Crittenden Middle School in March. The branch held its free STEM workshop for girls in April. This year the ROTC male cadets from Green Run High School served as runners. The total attendance was 61, with 41 of them being middle and high school girls. The workshop was partially funded through a mini-grant and a \$500 donation from branch member Dr. Carmina Sanchez, Professor of Architecture (Hampton University).

*Carolyn Stewart
President*

The spring 2024 **Northern District** meeting featured local author and member of the **McLean Area Branch**, Diana Parsell, discussing her groundbreaking biography "Eliza Scidmore: The Trailblazing Journalist Behind Washington's Cherry Trees." Scidmore was the earliest champion of efforts to plant Japanese cherry trees in Potomac Park. An extraordinary journalist, travel writer, and conservationist, she was also an early AAUW member, gaining entry in 1920 after receiving an honorary doctorate from George Washington University based on her journalism work.

At the district meeting and the State Conference in Lynchburg, members were informed that on March 28-29, 2025, the Northern District will be hosting the 2025 State Conference and preconference activities at the Sheraton Suites Hotel in Old Town Alexandria, where we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of AAUW-VA. (See page 15)

We are delighted to announce that Northern District members at the conference elected Sandy Lawrence, Springfield-Annandale Branch, and Sharon Zackula, Falls Church Area Branch, as the new Northern District co-representatives, beginning July 1. Both Sandy and Sharon have extensive AAUW-VA experience and have already hit the ground running. Thank you, Sandy and Sharon!

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

The **Portsmouth Branch** is excited to announce the selection of a Lakeland High School senior to receive the 2024 Fran Allwood Scholarship. This scholarship is a \$2,000 award that may be renewed for up to four years if the criteria are met. The Scholarship Committee was impressed by the high caliber of all applicants for this year's scholarship.

The Portsmouth Branch recently toured the Jewish Community and Cultural Center and the Portsmouth Community Colored Library to learn more about and

Portsmouth Branch continued...

reconnect with the rich history of Portsmouth. The branch enjoyed its annual picnic and social at a member's home on May 5. Members are happy to welcome two new members to the branch. The book group continues to meet monthly and will do so through the summer. Plans are underway for programs and activities in the fall. The branch plans to participate in the Get Out the Vote postcard campaign again this year.

*Phyllis Shannon
President*

This quarter has been a busy one for the **Reston-Herndon Area Branch**. The branch had a successful meeting in February with Reset 180 to learn more about human trafficking in the area. In March, members celebrated women's history with speaker Lindsay Lowry from George Mason University's Center for Women and Gender Studies who discussed the history of transgender issues, including Native Americans' beliefs about Two-Spirited People, use of pronouns, and safety concerns. The remainder of branch programming has been in support of the state and district meetings and lobby days.

The education committee decided to contribute to the NCCWLS scholarship program and purchase books for the libraries of six Title 1 schools in local areas. The libraries were pleased to receive the books which focused on contemporary women leaders.

At the June annual meeting, members will vote on the officer slate for 2024-25. Members look forward to another terrific year for the branch.

*Cyndi Shanahan
Administrator*

Spring has sprung, and so has the energy of the **Smith Mountain Branch**! In mid-April, 15 members journeyed to Lynchburg for the Virginia State Conference. Members took charge of the Friday Night Fun event and provided swag bags for attendees. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow advocates who share a passion for education and empowerment.

Over 20 members participated in an international studies group meeting. Members hosted a remarkable speaker from Ukraine who shared her poignant journey from life before the Russian invasion to the present-day realities in her country.

Closer to home, members embarked on a delightful road trip to discover the hidden treasures of Walters Greenhouse. This family-operated nursery, managed by two dedicated sisters, offered a glimpse into its rich history and bountiful offerings. It was a joyous day of

Smith Mountain Branch continued... learning, exploration, and adding vibrant spring plants to our gardens.

May brought with it a celebration of achievement as the scholarship committee introduced four exceptional recipients at the luncheon held at the 4H center in Wirtz. Meeting these bright individuals and hearing their stories reaffirmed members' commitment to supporting education and fostering future leaders.

The classics book group delved into the timeless tales in Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass." In the whimsical world of a Mad Hatter Tea Party, the spirit of curiosity and imagination thrived.

Looking ahead, the planning committee convened to brainstorm ideas for the 25th anniversary celebration in 2025. Reflecting on past achievements and looking to the future, members are filled with gratitude for the bonds of friendship, learning, and advocacy that unite us as they reflect on past achievements and look forward to the future.

*Ann Johnson/Margee Kauffman
Newsletter Co-Chairs*

The **Springfield-Annandale Branch** highlighted inclusion for its April and May meetings. The April meeting featured John R. Lewis HS student, Kaylee Boateng, whose program "Girls Need Love" gives girls a place to belong and be respected as well as offering fun and creative activities. On May 3, the branch held its annual Spring Fling fundraiser at the Springfield Golf and Country Club. This exciting event featured dynamic speaker, Annie Ray. Ms. Ray is the department chair and orchestra teacher at Annandale High School, winner of the 2023 Fairfax County Public School Secondary Teacher of the Year Award, and recipient of the 2024 Grammy Music Educator of the Year Award. In addition to her music classes and founding a parent orchestra, she has also created the Crescendo Orchestra program to provide universal access to quality music education to students with severe developmental or intellectual disabilities.

*Cathleen Boivin
Springfield-Annandale Co-President*



Photo: Teacher Annie Ray at the Spring Fling, Springfield Golf and Country Club May 3, 2024

The **Vienna Area Branch** finished strong. First, the branch had a spring field trip to Occoquan. Nine members met at the Lucy Barnes Museum where a docent told the story of the fight for the 19th Amendment. Part of that story included the Night of Terror and the forced feeding of movement leaders at the women's prison. Members then drove to the nearby Turning Points Suffragist Memorial which recognized the many steps it took to get women the right to vote in the United States. Finally, members had lunch at Brickmakers Café to discuss the trip.

The final meeting of the year was a brown bag luncheon held at Co-President Susan Pauly's home, followed by a business meeting and election of officers for next year. The Vienna Area Branch is proud of maintaining 60 members.

*Candace Strawn
Co-President*

After the **Virginia Beach Branch's** January meeting at which James Shull of UpVote gave a demonstration of ranked-choice voting using candy bar preferences as candidates, branch members had a better understanding of the logic and fair outcomes that the voting method provides.

In April, the branch welcomed Sara Olsen of ForKids, an organization that reaches children and families throughout Hampton Roads assisting with housing, jobs, and sound financial practices. The branch was edified with information worth passing on through all contacts in life and service organizations.

Branch membership continues to meet in small groups to enjoy Movie Sisters in person and online, watching and discussing movies produced/written/directed by or starring women. In addition, the two book groups remain active.



*Carole Szetela
VP of Program*

Photo: Virginia Beach Branch with guest speaker Sara Olsen of ForKids.

The **Wytheville Branch** held its 8th Annual STEM Workshop in March with 35 middle school girls at Wytheville Community College (WCC). They explored DNA, drones, biomedical engineering, and physical therapy during four workshops. Several parents also attended with the girls and were able to hear from President Sprinkle about the curricula offered at the

Wytheville Branch continued...

college in the STEM fields. They also learned that students from Wythe and Bland Counties may attend tuition-free with a scholarship through the Wythe-Bland Foundation. The branch continues to sponsor a \$500 scholarship to a four-year institution for a non-traditional student graduating from WCC.

*Alma Watson
President*

2024 Conference - April 12-13, 2024

The Southwest branches (Lynchburg, Roanoke Valley, Smith Mountain, and Wytheville) sponsored the 99th Annual State Conference in Lynchburg. It was attended by 70+ members from 18 branches across the state and was highly rated in the evaluations.

Friday was a day of sightseeing and fun for those who came early to enjoy the weekend. Tours of Lynchburg focused on historical and cultural sites in the community. The evening was topped off with a social mixer in the hotel lobby and continued at the hospitality suite until 10:00 p.m.

One of the day's highlights was our brilliant keynote speaker, Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar, president of the University of Lynchburg. Her theme was "Courageous Leaders" and it focused on three distinct styles of leadership: leading from the front, from the side, and from behind. She helped us recognize in and among ourselves how these three different, equally important styles of leadership, when combined effectively within an organization, will boost and enhance mission success.

A second important speaker was AAUW Senior Director of Policy & Membership Advocacy Meghan Kissell who shared updates on important legislative work AAUW National is continuing with in areas such as Title IX and the impending ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment when it is published as the 28th Amendment! An exciting, enlightening time spent with a group of educated, experienced, involved, enthusiastic, and empowered women of AAUW-VA.

*Anita Aymer
Wytheville Branch
Sharon Cooper
Smith Mountain Branch*



AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference

The Atlantic Regional Conference, *Empowering for Equity*, will be an exciting event from Sept. 27-29, 2024, at the beautiful Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center in Glen Allen, VA. AAUW of Virginia is the hosting state, and Diane Schrier and Danielle Beach-Oswald from the Alexandria Branch are the conference co-chairs. AAUW members from Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C., and West Virginia will be attending. This will be our first chance for members in the East to get together since the last AAUW National Conference in 2017. We'll be able to renew, energize, inform, and strengthen our dedication to the AAUW mission, along with provide an opportunity to connect with long-missed friends and to meet new friends. A strong group of state presidents and other members has joined together to create this conference. There will be an exciting lineup of inspiring speakers and informative and action-based programs, including issue and advocacy sessions and swap shops. At the latter, branches can present their best programs so that attendees can go home with templates to replicate similar programs for their branches—without having to reinvent the wheel.

You can visit the conference website at <https://www.aauwatlanticregionalconference.com> for information, including how to register for the conference and for hotel rooms. Early bird registration (deadline September 6, 2024) for the three-day conference, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday, is \$209. There are special conference items for pre-purchase. Hotel rooms are \$129 per night plus tax and tourism fee.

Diane Schrier
Regional Conference Co-Chair

Branch Responsibilities

Update Branch Officer Lists Before July 1st!

Branches are reminded that the Community Hub list of branch officers must be updated before July 1st by a Community Hub manager—the president or the vice presidents for finance or membership.

- **Login to your SNAPSHOT.** Click My Affiliations → the square blue button next to the branch name → Manage Roster → Committee Management. The current board roster will open and can be modified to:
- **Add any new board member and any current board member changing positions.** Scroll below the board roster page and click on “Add New” → “Account” → the name of the new board member in the dropdown list so that it displays in “Account.” Click on “Committee Position”—choose a board position from the dropdown list. Enter the start date as July 1, 2024. Enter the end date as June 30, 2025.
- **Edit a current board member’s end-of-term listing because they will remain in the same position for the next fiscal year** by clicking on “Edit” next to their name and modifying the term end year.
- **Do not delete board members leaving the board**—as they will automatically be removed from the board roster when their term end date expires in 2024.

Suzanne Rothwell
Bylaws and Resolutions Chair

Avoid Losing Your IRS Non-Profit Status - Submit Information to AAUW

What Does Every Branch Need to Do? Every AAUW branch is required to submit to AAUW the information needed so that AAUW can file **IRS Form 990-N** on behalf of the branch. The submission to AAUW must be made through Community Hub by **October 15, 2024**. Any branch that has gross receipts of \$50,000 or more is also required to submit the branch Form 990-N directly to the IRS by November 15, 2024.

What Happens If No Filing is Made With the IRS? Failure of a branch to timely file Form 990-N with the IRS in any year will result in an inquiry by the IRS, with the opportunity to submit the delinquent filing. Failure to file Form 990-N for three consecutive years will result in the branch losing its IRS non-profit exemption, although the branch can apply for reinstatement.

Helpful Guidance for the Form: To submit the information needed by AAUW, the branch president or vice president for finance or membership should:

- Login to your **PERSONAL SNAPSHOT**. Click the **MY AFFILIATIONS** → the square blue button next to the branch name → **TAX INFORMATION** → **ADD NEW TAX DETAILS**. This will open the AAUW form that must be completed.
- Verify that the branch Employer Identification Number is correct.
- Answer these questions with “yes” or “no:”
 - (1) Are Gross Receipts less than \$50,000?
 - (2) Do you want AAUW to file your 990-N?
 - (3) Has the business been terminated?
- Provide the name/address of a principal officer. I recommend that you only list an officer located in Virginia and, if possible, in a town/city that is consistent with the branch name.
- Provide the branch website URL.
- Click **NEXT** to see a message that the information has been saved. Click **FINISH**, which will display a copy of your submission.

Suzanne Rothwell
Bylaws and Resolutions Chair

Public Policy

2024 General Assembly Session Recap

While we saw bills of interest to AAUW members advance through this year's General Assembly session, Governor Youngkin vetoed a record number of bills, including paid family and medical leave and a salary history ban, both of which AAUW-VA has advocated for many years. He also vetoed bills that would protect access to abortion and contraception and several education bills that were supported by our coalition, Fund Our Schools. After making 233 amendments to the bipartisan budget that the General Assembly presented to him, the governor and legislators came to an agreement that preserved funding increases for K-12 schools and higher education and provided a 3% raise for teachers. We are certain that many of the vetoed bills will be reintroduced in 2025 and look forward to our members advocating again in Richmond to continue our important work of advocating for equity for women and girls.

Get Out the Vote!

With a critical national election and local elections occurring in November, AAUW encourages all branches to support voter education. A good place to start is viewing [AAUW's It's My Vote](#) for ways to engage and questions to ask candidates. Keep an eye out for more webinars and emailed information from National leading up to and throughout the election season.

AAUW-VA branches have several options for engaging in this work. AAUW-VA will again provide some financial reimbursement to branches that participate in the Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) campaign, which will send reminder and resource messages to registered Black voters in Virginia. Details on how to participate in ROV will be supplied to branches via email. Branches that wish to help in voter registration efforts are encouraged to contact their local League of Women Voters chapter to work with them on this effort. Remember that those wishing to work on voter registration in Virginia are required to take an annual training class, available online.

We also want to remind everyone that engaging in voter education and registration requires that we remain non-partisan and fact-based. We don't endorse candidates; rather, we encourage conversations around our issues and the importance of voting. If you need assistance or directions to more specific resources for your branch, send an email to aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com.



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

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

AAUW Voting and Election Results

AAUW National Voting Results

Election of Directors

Melissa LaDuke, Dianne Owens, Sona Pancholy, and Christine Schmitz were elected to serve on the AAUW National Board of Directors.

Bylaws Amendment

The open membership initiative did not pass. Changes to AAUW's bylaws require a 2/3 majority (66.6%) to pass. AAUW members voted 65.1% to approve the measure, just shy of passing.

The defeated proposal was to open membership to “. . . any individual who supports AAUW's purpose of advancing equity for women and girls . . .” A two-thirds vote was required for approval. See <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/> on election results.

As of May 8, AAUW-VA's participation rate was 41.91%. Whether you compare that to 37.37% of branch members nationwide, or our 2021 number of 31.75% members voting, we rock. AAUW-VA affirmative votes were 64.86%.

State Election Results

Thank you to the 222 AAUW of Virginia members who voted in the recent *One Member One Vote State Election*; that is a voting rate of 24%, which meets the 7% quorum we needed for the election. Each candidate was elected with 98% or more of the vote. The AAUW of Virginia 2024-26 officers for the following positions are:

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

Additionally, the proposed 2024-2026 Public Policy Priorities passed with 99.1% of the vote.

Congratulations and thank you to these members!! We look forward to working with you in 2024-26.

*Sandy Lawrence
Voting and Elections Chair*

“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time - Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



**MARK THIS DOWN ON YOUR
CALENDAR!**

**2025 AAUW-VA STATE
CONFERENCE**

MARCH 29, 2025

(Preconference activities on March 28)

On **March 27-28, 1925**, the seven already existing local branches of AAUW met in Williamsburg. When they adjourned, the **Virginia Division of AAUW** was a reality.

On **March 28, 2025**, join us in Alexandria as the **AAUW-VA centennial celebration** begins, and we jubilantly begin our second century.

The conference is being hosted by the AAUW-VA Northern District branches at the **Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria, 801 N. St. Asaph Street, Alexandria 22314** on **Saturday, March 29, 2025**, with preconference activities on **March 28, 2025**.

Great news! It's not too early to reserve a room. Guest rooms will be available for **March 28 & 29 (king/sofa bed or double/double for \$159 per night plus tax, * including a full hot breakfast for up to 2 persons. Use this QR code to make a reservation:**



or use this link. You can also call 1 (888) 236-2427; use code **AAUW of Virginia Mar2025** to reserve a room. The rate is also available for 3 days before/after March 28 & 29 on a space available basis. You must make a reservation for March 28 and/or 29, and then email jrasolofoson@sheratonalexandria.com to book extra days.

The earlier you book a room the better because the 2025 Conference will take place on the eve of Cherry Blossom season and rooms in the hotel will book up early. Once our block is sold out, we might be able to add more rooms, but that will only be possible if the hotel is not already sold out.

***IMPORTANT NOTICE:** When making your hotel reservation, ignore any reference to a \$25 resort fee. You will **NOT** be charged this. The room rate is \$159 plus state and local taxes.

Vision (ISSN 0897-2257)
is published three times
a year by the American
Association of University
Women of Virginia

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

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