



**AAUW of Virginia
Conference
Alexandria
March 29, 2025**

1925-2025: 100 Years of Changing the Conversation

CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOOK

**AAUW of Virginia Conference & 100th Anniversary
Celebration**

March 28-29, 2025

Sheraton Suites Old Town

801 N Saint Asaph Street

Alexandria, VA



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Dear AAUW of Virginia Members,

Welcome to the AAUW of Virginia 2025 Conference and congratulations on the 100th anniversary of AAUW-VA's co-founding! It is a remarkable milestone that reflects your enduring commitment to advancing equity for women and girls.

First, let me express my heartfelt gratitude for the *incredible* work you've done over the years to create a brighter future for women and girls throughout your communities and the world.

Your contributions are a vital part of our organization's legacy, and it's inspiring to see AAUW-VA continue to thrive with such passion and purpose. From lobbying on the Hill and at the State Capitol to implementing programs and mini-grants, you exemplify active engagement in our mission-based work. Thank you.

This year's conference is a moment to honor our shared history, celebrate our victories, and recommit ourselves to the important work that lies ahead during this uncertain time. By standing united, we remain hopeful and continue to make meaningful progress. Every positive action — no matter how small — may play a role in helping to shape a better future. Whether through acts of kindness, speaking up for what's right, or challenging limitations, we will each continue to contribute to the broader movement toward justice and equity.

Together, we hope to forge a path toward a more equitable future. While obstacles remain, our mission, grounded in research and evidence-based solutions, propels us forward. And with a community of passionate advocates like AAUW of Virginia, our resolve is unshakable.

Thank you for financially supporting AAUW National and being an integral part of AAUW's legacy and future. I am so thrilled to acknowledge and celebrate this milestone with you and look forward to continuing this journey together!

With deepest gratitude,

Gloria

Gloria L. Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer



Welcome to Alexandria! We're so happy you're here so we can celebrate this milestone in style and together. What does it mean to be a century old? It means we have confidence and courage. We've been around the block a few times and we say what we will and won't do. We will not let down our foremothers. We will honor them by keeping AAUW strong and relevant for members not born yet. We won't water down our message. Or back down when it comes to equity for women and girls. We won't go back.

Let's start by listing our 2024-2025 accomplishments with our Branch Leader Chats. I truly enjoy these. Thank you for supporting them.

We launched our newest branch this past September: AAUW-Fredericksburg Area! With Janet Hedrick as the founding president and Laura Greenfield, AAUW-VA Vice President for Membership, guiding the way, this branch promises to make a significant impact. Please tell your friends in Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and Stafford. Janet can be reached at jhedrick815@gmail.com.

In September 2024, we hosted a successful, by any metric, first ever AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference. Pennsylvania will host the eastern states in 2026. Diane Schrier (Alexandria) and Danielle Beach (Alexandria) led us to victory. Laura Wimmer (Greater Richmond) was like a ninja. She seemed to anticipate needs and fill them before members asked! From pickups at the train station to coordinating her ambassadors.

In January 2025, AAUW-VA members fanned out all over the statehouse and told more than forty legislators about our priorities: funding for public education, equity for women, reproductive rights, accessible childcare. The coordinating team was our previous and current AAUW-VA Public Policy Vice Presidents: Diane Schrier, Janine Greenwood (Reston-Herndon) and Denise Murden (Portsmouth).

In February 2025, we launched Branch Essentials to support new branch leaders. If you haven't already, give it a look. (And yes, I cringe when I watch those videos. Proof that I will do anything for you.) Tess Evans, AAUW-VA VP for Communications (Greater Richmond) created a professional and easy-to-use product for us.

Today we find ourselves in a very *different* political landscape. I'll leave you with one last quote concerning this new reality. In *All About Eve*, the character played by Bette Davis says, "Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy night." We're ready for whatever comes and we will face it together.

Yours Sincerely,

Lane



City of Alexandria, Virginia

301 King Street, Suite 2300

Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Alyia Gaskins
Mayor

Office: 703.746.4500
alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov

March 29, 2025

American Association of University Women of Virginia

Dear AAUW of Virginia Members:

Congratulations to the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Virginia for your success empowering women for 100 years! It is my honor to write this welcome letter on behalf of the City of Alexandria and celebrate your centennial with you.

This year's conference is an opportunity to celebrate you and the impactful work that you have done on behalf of women. AAUW of Virginia's work to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy is vital to our community. Thank you for changing the conversation these past 100 years. As the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls, I applaud you for your efforts to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance and ability to reach their highest potential in Virginia. The impact you are making will be felt for generations.

Congratulations again on bringing together women from all your branches in Virginia to continue to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

Sincerely,

Alyia Gaskins
Mayor
City of Alexandria



*2025 State Conference Committee Chairs
and Other Volunteers*
HOSTED BY THE NORTHERN DISTRICT

Conference Committee Co-Chairs:	Sandra Lawrence (Springfield-Annandale) and Sharon Zackula (Falls Church Area), Northern District Co-Representatives
Conference Program Co-Chairs:	Susan Burk (Springfield-Annandale) and Leslie Tourigny (Alexandria & Virginia Beach), AAUW-VA Co-VPs for Program
Ads:	Deborah Dodd (Springfield-Annandale)
Badges:	Gail Rosner (Vienna Area), Adrienne Schmitz (Vienna Area), Sandra Wilson (Vienna Area), Kate MacLeod (Vienna Area)
Computer Support:	Tammie Mullins-Rice (Virginia Beach), AAUW-VA Southeast District Co-Representative
Conference Check-In:	Judy Baldwin (Springfield-Annandale), Aida Loomis (Falls Church Area), Deborah Dodd (Springfield-Annandale), Sherry Warren (Portsmouth), Virginia Kress (Alexandria), Irene McGhee (Springfield-Annandale)
Conference Brochure, Logo, and Program Book:	Patsy Quick (Mt. Vernon), Sharon Zackula (Falls Church)
Evaluations:	Janine Greenwood (Reston-Herndon)
Greeters:	Marsha Melkonian (Smith Mountain), Diane Schrier (Alexandria), Susan Burk (Springfield-Annandale), Leslie Tourigny (Alexandria & Virginia Beach), Cheryl Spohnholtz (Mt. Vernon)
Hospitality Suite:	Diane Schrier (Alexandria), Solveig Eggerz (Alexandria & Mt. Vernon), Vashti Robinson (Alexandria), Sylvia Linke (Alexandria)
Merchandise Design:	Suzanne Rothwell, AAUW-VA Bylaws and Resolutions Chair (Vienna Area)
Online Registration/ Funds Transfer:	Tammie Mullins-Rice (Virginia Beach), AAUW-VA Southeast District Co-Representative

Photographers:	Cheryl Spohnholtz (Mt. Vernon) and Jim Woodlee
Raffle Baskets:	Phyllis Yoshida (McLean Area), Cheryl Williams (McLean Area), Phyllis Provenzano (McLean Area), Betsy Schroeder (McLean Area)
Signage:	Suzanne Rothwell, AAUW-VA Bylaws and Resolutions (Vienna Area)
Speaker Gifts:	Meg Tuccillo, AAUW-VA Co-VP for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Arlington), Rebecca Gaul (Falls Church Area)
Tour On-Site Coordinators & Drivers:	Deborah Dodd (Springfield-Annandale), Solveig Eggerz (Alexandria & Mt. Vernon), Mary Ann Brier (Alexandria), Priscilla Weiner (Alexandria), Cynthia Jacobus (Mt. Vernon), Cheryl Spohnholtz (Mt. Vernon), Eugenia Burkes (Alexandria)
Treasurer:	Marsha Melkonian, AAUW-VA C/U Co-Chair (Smith Mountain)
Timekeepers, Q & A Runners:	Laura Greenfield, AAUW-VA VP for Membership (Hampton), Meg Tuccillo (Arlington), Patsy Quick (Mt. Vernon), Barbara Woodlee (Virginia Beach)
Vendor Liaison:	Laura Wimmer (Greater Richmond)
Welcome Bags:	Patsy Quick (Mt. Vernon), Elaine Kolish (Mt. Vernon), Sandy Doyle (Mt. Vernon), Cathy Conron (Mt. Vernon), Anne Simpson (Mt. Vernon & Alexandria), Solveig Eggerz (Mt. Vernon & Alexandria), Mary Ellen Mehler (Mt. Vernon), Mary Stauss (Mt. Vernon), Bev Dyer (Mt. Vernon), Susan Farmer (Mt. Vernon), Bianca Daugherty (Mt. Vernon), Joanna Crane (Mt. Vernon), Joanne Clark (Mt. Vernon)



Hotel Accommodations



SHERATON SUITES OLD TOWN

801 N ST. ASAPH STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA

- For those staying at the hotel, a full hot breakfast for up to two persons is included in the price of your room.
- Hotel check-in time is 4:00 p.m., and check-out time is 12:00 p.m.
- When you check out of the hotel, make sure there is not a \$25 resort fee for each night you stay at the hotel. AAUW-VA members are not being charged this fee.
- Click [this link](#) and scroll down to see accessibility features of the hotel.



Once Upon a Time....

“On **March 27-28, 1925**, there assembled in Williamsburg, Virginia, a group of Virginia women, called together as delegates from the already existing local branches of the American Association of University Women, with the intent to form a Virginia State Division of the organization.... When the meeting adjourned at four o'clock that afternoon of March 28th, the Virginia Division of AAUW was a reality. Already there appear in the minutes of that meeting some of the same interests which have occupied and still occupy the minds of the members of the local branches and of the State Organization today. There are apparent an interest in working in the state for bringing about legislation for an increase in funds for the state supported schools and an interest in the pre-school age for which the AAUW even had a tentative programme formed. There were in the state at that time seven local branches...” Richmond, Norfolk, Lynchburg, Sweet Briar, Charlottesville, Roanoke, and Williamsburg. (Source: The History of the American Association of University Women of Virginia 1925-2010, Neola Waller, Bernice B. Lovitt, Mary Wright Thrasher, and Dr. E. Marion Smith, 2014.)

On **March 28-29, 2025**, a group of more than 100 Virginia women will be called together from the 24 local branches of AAUW-VA to hold our annual conference and jubilantly celebrate our centennial-- “100 Years of Changing the Conversation.” See you in Alexandria!

Sandy Lawrence & Sharon Zackula, Conference Co-Chairs
Susan Burk & Leslie Tourigny, AAUW-VA Co-Vice Presidents for Program



Transportation In and Out of Alexandria

SHERATON SUITES OLD TOWN

801 N. St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

1. YOU CAN DRIVE.

When you reach the Sheraton Suites Old Town, **and turn into the driveway**, you will notice a **parking garage** to the left. For those staying at the hotel, the parking rate per night is \$28. For those attending the conference and not staying at the hotel, parking in this same garage is \$6.00 per hour, for a maximum of \$32 for the day.

As an alternative, if you are lucky and persistent, **some of** the on-street parking restrictions on **some** streets near **the hotel are not in effect from Friday night through the rest of the weekend**, i.e., the parking is FREE if you can get it!

2. YOU CAN TAKE AMTRAK.

Trains from various locations throughout Virginia stop in Alexandria. There is only one Amtrak stop in Alexandria (ALX), which is at the [Alexandria Union Station](#), 110 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The train station is only 1.6 miles from the Conference hotel. The quickest and easiest transportation to the hotel and then back to the station is a taxi, Uber, or Lyft.

3. YOU CAN TAKE LOCAL WASHINGTON, DC AREA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

TO THE CONFERENCE

Take either the [Metro](#) yellow or blue line to the **Braddock Road Metro Station** in Alexandria. That station is only .6 miles from the hotel. There are multiple ways to get from the Braddock Road Metro Station to the conference hotel:

By bus: Go to Bus Bay D on the curb outside of the station and take either the Alexandria Dash Bus (<https://www.dashbus.com>) # 30 bus or the #31 bus. The bus is free, and it is a short ride to the hotel along Madison Street. Get off the bus at N. St. Asaph Street, which is at the corner of Madison Street. After exiting the bus, turn left, and cross N. St. Asaph Street facing the Harris Teeter store. Then make a left turn and cross Madison Street. It is a very short walk to the hotel at 801 N. St. Asaph Street.

By alternate means: You can also take a taxi, Uber, or Lyft from the metro station, or walk the .6 mile from the Metro to the hotel.

RETURNING TO THE METRO

By bus: You can take a free Alexandria Dash Bus back to the Braddock Road Metro Station by exiting the hotel and turning right onto N. St Asaph Street. Cross at the next corner, Montgomery Street, and then cross N. St. Asaph Street. There is a bus stop sign about a third of the way down the street on the curbside. Take the first bus that comes, either the #30 or #31, for a short ride to the station.

By alternate means: You can also take a taxi, Uber, or Lyft from the hotel or walk the .6 mile from the hotel to the Braddock Road Metro stop.



Patronize Our 3 Women-Owned/Managed Vendors

Put your breaktime and/or your gap-time (after lunch and before the afternoon session) to good use by visiting our vendors and purchasing their unique and diverse products. (Credit cards accepted.)

Bards Alley Bookshop

Opened in 2017, **Bards Alley Bookshop** in Vienna, Virginia, is a woman-owned indie bookstore that offers carefully curated literature and whimsical expressions of life. Their goal is to create a village of kindred spirits in support of our local and global communities. Bards Alley has served as a vendor of banned books at local conferences and at the Virginia Library Association's 2023 conference. They are proud to have been voted one of the top bookstores in Northern Virginia by the readers of *Virginia Living* magazine.

110 Church Street, NW, Vienna, VA 22180

Owner: Jen Morrow, 571-459-2653

www.bardsalley.com

info@bardsalley.com

Ten Thousand Villages

Located on Historic King Street, and celebrating its 30th year in business, the Alexandria Ten Thousand Villages store is more than just a store; they are a way for you to shop with intention, shop your values and connect with your global villages. Ten Thousand Villages creates opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to market through long-term, fair-trading relationships. It is a non-profit, 501c (3) organization that relies on volunteers. You can trust that your handmade purchase and donation directly impacts the life and community of the artisan who made it, breaking the cycle of generational poverty and igniting social change.

915 King Street, Old Town, Alexandria, VA 22314

Kate McMahon, Managing Director, 703-684-1435

www.tenthousandvillages.com/alexandria

manager.alexandria@tenthousandvillages.com

TRACE – The Zero Waste Store

TRACE has a full range of eco-friendly household and personal items that are designed and packaged to reduce pollution from packaging, especially plastic packaging, and to foster re-use. Home goods include reusable cotton un-paper towels, laundry sheets, wool dryer balls, soaps, dish detergent and other cleaning supplies. TRACE also has eco-friendly baby supplies, lotions, reusable cotton un-paper makeup pads, lotions and reusable straws and food storage containers. Kermit the Frog said, "It's not easy being green." TRACE can make it much easier.

140 Church Street NW, Vienna, VA 22180

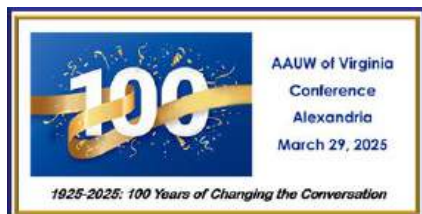
Owner/Operator: Mala Persaud, 703-223-5045

www.tracezerowaste.com

tracezerowaste@gmail.com



State Conference Agenda March 28 & 29, 2025



Pre-Conference Activities--March 28

Optional Tours

2:00 p.m.

Conference Check-In

4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

100th Anniversary Social

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Toast and Special Entertainment

8:00 p.m.

Conference--March 29

Conference Check-In

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

Beginning at 7:00 a.m. (included for hotel guests;
available for purchase for others)

Morning Session

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lunch

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Afternoon Session

1:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Pre-Conference Activities on Friday, March 28, 2025

2:00 P.M. OPTIONAL TOURS

On Friday, March 28, those who registered in advance will be going on one of two optional tours.

The tours will leave the hotel lobby promptly at 2:00 p.m.

1. **Alexandria Celebrates Women** (ACW) Women's History Walking Tour, guided by ACW Co-Founder and Vice President Gayle E. Converse. ACW is a volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization that recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of Alexandria's women of the past, present and future.

This two-hour walking tour is free, but advance registration was required. This tour follows an accessible route through historic Old Town Alexandria and will stop at many of the sites associated with a wide array of diverse and courageous women who have been an integral part of Alexandria's history. One stop will be the site of the former federal courthouse in Alexandria where, in 1917, the suffragists who were arrested for picketing in Washington, DC and then imprisoned in the DC Workhouse in Occoquan, were tried and released. The AAUW Alexandria Branch received a mini-grant from AAUW-VA to contribute to placing the historic marker at this site.

Another stop is the present-day Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library (originally called the Alexandria Library), which was the site of the 1939 library sit-in. This was one of the country's earliest civil rights sit-ins. You'll also hear more about the sit-in during one of the conference presentations on Saturday, March 29.

Before you head back to the hotel, there will be a stop so you can purchase some ice cream to see for yourself why *Forbes Magazine* named Alexandria the Ice Cream Cone Capital of the U.S.!

2. **Freedom House Museum** This tour costs \$4.00 and advance payment and registration was required.

The Freedom House Museum, owned by the City of Alexandria, is located at 1315 Duke Street. The Duke Street building was once the headquarters of Franklin and Armfield, the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States. From 1828 to 1861, traders trafficked tens of thousands of enslaved adults and children through the building that today houses the museum. Taken from their families, these individuals were forced to the slave markets in the deep South by foot or ship to be sold. This museum honors the lives and experiences of the enslaved and free Black people who lived in and were trafficked through Alexandria.

The background of the slide is decorated with numerous gold streamers or confetti, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere. These streamers are scattered across the entire page, framing the central text box.

Friday Night 100th Anniversary Social

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Cash bar)

8:00 p.m. - Special Entertainment and Anniversary Toast

The 100th Anniversary celebration will officially begin at this get-together. Meet up with old friends. Meet new friends, and celebrate 100 years of AAUW of Virginia members changing the conversation.

Make sure to arrive by 8:00 p.m. so you can join in toasting our 100th anniversary and enjoying the special entertainment.



Conference Schedule & Presentations March 29

8:30 a.m. Opening and Welcome

AAUW-VA President Lane Stone

Welcome – City of Alexandria Mayor Alyia Gaskins

Presentation of the Colors -- Alexandria City High School JROTC Battalion Color Guard

[See more information about our distinguished speakers on pp. 18-23.](#)

9:10 a.m. Keynote Address:

Beginning Another Century of Changing the Conversation

Representative Jennifer McClellan (VA-04)

We are honored to have as our keynote speaker Representative Jennifer McClellan of Virginia's 4th Congressional District. Representative McClellan entered the U.S. House of Representatives in 2023. Prior to her election to the House of Representatives, she served the greater Richmond area in elected office for nearly twenty years. She was first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2005 and served in that post until she was elected to the Virginia State Senate in 2017.

Representative McClellan sits on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Science, Space and Technology Committee. A principled and progressive legislator, McClellan has always worked to ensure Virginians' voices are heard in government.

10:00 a.m. AAUW–VA Mini-Grants Change the Conversation in Your Community

Marsha Melkonian, Mini-Grant Chair (Smith Mountain Branch), moderates a panel regarding AAUW of VA 's Mini-Grant Program and panelists share their success stories.

Anita Booth and Sue Christie (McLean Area Branch), "Establishing the Graham Road Elementary School Sensory Garden"

Dr. Tonya Brown (Hampton Branch), "A Day in the Life of STEM Women"

Linda Walters (Smith Mountain Branch), "Can I Join Your Club?"

Every year, for over a decade, the AAUW-VA State Board has allocated funds for mini-grants to support branch proposals that promote AAUW's public policy priorities. These mini-grants provide seed money for innovative and tried-and-true projects. Over the years, branches have pursued a wide variety of

projects supported with AAUW-VA mini-grants that have embodied our public policy priorities and raised the visibility of, and consequently opportunities, for recruitment for AAUW-VA. Mini-grant projects also have been used to promote and enhance diversity, equity and inclusion within AAUW and the community. Our panelists will describe successful projects their branches have undertaken for which they received mini-grant support. Branches will come away with information on how they can apply for mini-grants for projects they are planning.

10:35 a.m. Break

10:50 a.m. The Changing Conversation About Title IX

Kalina Majercak, AAUW Advocacy Manager, moderates a panel regarding Title IX, with a distinguished panel of speakers.

Dr. Kenyora Johnson, CEO of End Rape on Campus

Emma Grasso Levine, Senior Manager, Title IX Policy and Programs, Know Your IX, a project of Advocates for Youth

Shiwali Patel, Senior Director of Safe and Inclusive Schools, National Women's Law Center.

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

These 37 words begin Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972—one of the most consequential civil rights laws in United States history. Widely known for creating opportunities for women and girls in athletics, Title IX does this—and so much more. It prohibits sex discrimination in all areas of education and assigns enforcement authority to the United States Department of Education. Since Title IX's passage, opponents have sought to weaken it. Faced with a changing conversation, our panel of experts will help us look back on the 50 plus years under Title IX and help us chart our advocacy actions for the future—beginning now.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Preventing People from Reading Books Changes the Conversation

1:15 p.m. Rose Dawson, Alexandria Library Executive Director, speaks about how “The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In Still Changes the Conversation.”

In 1937, the City of Alexandria, Virginia, built the Alexandria Library. Although it was the only library in the city of 33,000 residents, entrance and use was limited to “Whites Only.” Even though African Americans lived in the city and paid taxes, they were not allowed to use the library. On August 21, 1939, one-by-one, five young African American men entered the library, and asked to register for a library card. What happened next changed the conversation—not only for the five young men, not only for a day, and not only for Alexandria. Our speaker, Rose Dawson, the current Alexandria Library Executive Director, recognizes and honors this legacy of courage. “We are the Alexandria Library Sit-In” commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Sit-In, and was recognized with the American Library Association’s 2020 Excellence in Library Programming Award. Rose Dawson will share with us how the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In continues to change the conversation.

1:45 p.m. Lisa R. Varga, Executive Director of the Virginia Library Association, speaks about “Opening Minds, Closing Doors: The Threat of Censorship in Schools and Public Libraries Changes the Conversation.”

In an era where the free exchange of ideas is more crucial than ever, libraries remain bastions of knowledge and intellectual freedom. Unfortunately, these vital institutions are facing growing threats from censorship efforts that seek to limit access to diverse materials, ideas, and lived experiences. Our speaker, Lisa Varga, Executive Director of the Virginia Library Association and the recipient of the *Library Journal*’s award for Librarian of the Year for 2024, will explore the phenomenon of censorship in libraries and discuss how we can work together to protect intellectual freedom and access to diverse perspectives.

2:30 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. Breaking Barriers: Trailblazing Innovators Who Are Changing the Conversation

Ashley Giordano, Manager of Program Management, National Inventors Hall of Fame, will speak to us about women who innovate and invent.

Throughout history, women have been championing change by innovating and solving problems. Hear how a pot roast inspired a hair-styling invention, how the keys of a piano inspired an essential development in wireless technology, and how three women invented the sports bra – revolutionizing the ready-to-wear clothing market and promoting greater inclusion in athletics around the world. Learn about the National Inventors Hall of Fame and their mission to honor our nation’s greatest innovators, inspire tomorrow’s innovators and share the stories of trailblazing innovators who are changing the conversation.

3:30 p.m. Celebrating 100 Years of Changing the Conversation

Surprise Guest, 100th Anniversary Cake and more!

State Named Honorees: Ann Johnson, AAUW-VA Funds Chair (Smith Mountain), presents State Named Honorees

4:15 p.m. Closing the Conversation for Today

First-Timer Raffle Drawing: Laura Greenfield, AAUW-VA VP for Membership (Hampton), recognizes State Conference first-timers.

Raffle Basket Drawing: Phyllis Yoshida (McLean Area) announces the basket winners.

Conference Group Photos

5:00 p.m. Goodbye and Safe Travels

AAUW-VA President Lane Stone

Thank you for attending the State Conference. Please don't forget to leave your completed evaluations on the way out. We hope to see you virtually on April 26, 2025, 2:00 p.m. for the Annual Business Meeting. You will receive information shortly about how to register for the Annual Business Meeting.

Raffle Baskets

Our branches will be bringing baskets of "treasures," of various types and themes to the conference. The baskets will be raffled and funds raised from the raffle will benefit the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund.

In years past, baskets have been full of chocolates, spa treats, great mysteries, or gourmet ingredients, among other things. Bring your sense of adventure, your generous spirit and your cash or credit card!

AAUW of Virginia President Lane Stone



Lane Stone is currently in her second term as AAUW of Virginia State President and previously served on the State Board as College/University Chair. 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. In her four years as Alexandria Branch president, she fostered a close collaboration between the branch and the Women’s Center at Northern Virginia Community College and served on the Center’s External Advisory Board. The branch supported the “Women Helping Women” program run by First Lady Jill Biden, who taught at the college for many years. Lane 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 works include the *Tiara Investigation Mysteries*, *Maltipoos Are Murder*, the *Pet Palace Mysteries*, *The Collector*, *The Canvas*, and *Dead Men Don’t Decorate*, which happens in Alexandria. When not writing, Lane enjoys traveling and volunteering for good causes.

Keynote Speaker Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan (VA-04)



Jennifer McClellan entered the U.S. Congress in 2023. A lifelong Virginia native, McClellan was born in Petersburg to educator parents. After graduating high school as class valedictorian, she earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond, where she served as a Charter member of the Rho Rho Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She then obtained her Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law. McClellan has served the greater Richmond area in elected office for nearly twenty years. She was first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2005 and served in that post until she was elected to the Virginia State Senate in 2017.

In Congress, she sits on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. A principled and progressive legislator, McClellan has always worked to ensure Virginians’ voices are heard in government. Throughout her eighteen sessions in the Virginia General Assembly, McClellan passed over 370 pieces of legislation, including landmark bills to protect and expand voting rights, combat climate change, preserve reproductive health care, and enhance workers’ protections and labor rights. McClellan lives in Richmond with her husband, David Mills, and their two children.

City of Alexandria Mayor Alyia Gaskins



Alyia Gaskins, a tenacious fighter for families, communities, and health equity, is the first African American woman to serve as the Mayor of the City of Alexandria. She was sworn in on January 2, 2025, and is dedicated to building a healthier, more prosperous Alexandria for all.

Mayor Gaskins' many accomplishments during her prior three years on City Council include leading the charge to expand access to affordable housing support and quality job opportunities; give public safety officers the tools—like body-worn cameras—they need to do their job; expanding the availability of early care and educational services; passing two historic collective bargaining agreements for police and firefighters that make significant increases in employee pay and staffing; and funding critical

infrastructure such as stormwater management and flood mitigation, increased transit options, and broadband expansion.

The same issues that motivate Alyia as an elected official—health, housing, education, public safety, and the economic, social, and physical vitality of cities—have motivated her professional career as a public health strategist and city planner. She has worked on hunger policy at D.C. Hunger Solutions and health issues at the National League of Cities, managed an affordable housing investment program at the Center for Community Investment, and was most recently a Senior Program Officer at the Melville Charitable Trust, a national philanthropic organization devoted to ending homelessness. Currently, Alyia runs her own consulting business, CitiesRX, which focuses on building physical, social, and economic health through community partnerships.

Mayor Gaskins graduated from Vanderbilt University, where she majored in medicine, health, and society. She earned a master's degree in public health at the University of Pittsburgh and further honed her policy chops with a master's in urban planning at Georgetown and a Professional Certificate in Municipal Finance from the University of Chicago.

AAUW-VA Mini-Grants Change the Conversation in Your Community

Anita Booth, McLean Area Branch

Anita Booth is a retired Senior Foreign Service Officer who served in eight countries in Africa and Europe. She witnessed the 1980 Liberian coup d'état and the 1989 Romanian Revolution. She is the recipient of numerous honor awards, including the Award for Valor.

Anita served as President of AAUW McLean and the Diplomatic Spouses Association in Ethiopia. Her community service includes the American Schools in Liberia and Romania, as well as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Liberia. She has volunteered at memory loss and assisting-living facilities as well as schools in the McLean-Falls Church community. Her hobbies include playing with her grandkids, music, traveling and entertaining.

Dr. Tonya Williams Brown, Hampton Branch

Tonya Williams Brown attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she graduated Valedictorian and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a specialization in Criminology. She went on to receive a Master of Arts in Sociology from Yale University and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Delaware (Newark). She taught in the sociology departments of Thomas Nelson Community College and Hampton University before leaving to co-found and serve as Dean of Calvary Bible College.

She is an active member of her church and has served on various school committees and community-based organizational boards. Her greatest joy is serving as a Group Leader for Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) International. In addition to being a sociologist and an educational advocate, she enjoys cooking, traveling, and spending time with her husband of 33 years and their three children.

Susan Christie, McLean Area Branch

Sue has served in cabinet and high-level policy positions in two states and as deputy executive director of the American Public Human Services Association consulting with state and local jurisdictions to improve services and outcomes to vulnerable children and families. Her work implementing national welfare reform was recognized by NPR and the New York Times.

Sue has served on the National Governors Association working committees and various boards including Community Residences serving persons with intellectual disabilities; National Symphony Orchestra Volunteer Council; and Children's' World Choir. She enjoys reading, gardening, travel and visiting with family.

Marsha Melkonian, Smith Mountain Branch

Marsha joined AAUW when she moved to Smith Mountain Lake. She is a wife, mother and grandmother and is retired from the Internal Revenue Service. A woman of many hobbies including crocheting, quilting and reading, she is well-known for the beautiful all occasion cards she creates to donate or sell to support special causes. Marsha also volunteers at the Booker T. Washington National Monument in Hardy, VA, and for the Fauquier NAACP.

Linda Walters, Smith Mountain Branch

Linda Walters earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education and Spanish from Wilkes University in Northeastern Pennsylvania. She taught for three years for the Northwest Area School District. After marrying her Navy husband, Dan, moving to Virginia, and being a "stay-at-home" mom for 15 years, she resumed her career, teaching twenty years for the Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

After retiring, Dan and Linda moved to Smith Mountain Lake. She enjoys lake living, reading, needlework, gardening, and traveling. She is active in church and various community organizations including the Smith Mountain Branch of AAUW. Her favorite times are spent with family and friends!

The Changing Conversation about Title IX



Kenyora Johnson is the CEO of End Rape on Campus (EROC). With a decade of experience, she has collaborated with youth, families, college students, administrators, and leaders such as the late Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Boston, MA, and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-7th). Before EROC, Kenyora worked in nonprofits and higher education institutions like Brandeis University, Strong Women, Strong Girls, and Simmons University. Currently, on the advisory board of Culture of Respect, a National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) initiative, Kenyora has held roles such as President of the African-American Alumni Association of Simmons University, Vice-Chair of The

Institute for Research on Male Supremacy, Advisory Board member of The Every Voice Coalition, and the Alumni Association Board at Boston University's School of Social Work. She's a recognized voice on anti-campus sexual violence, featured in major media, and honored by IGNITE National as a "Leader on Fire" in 2021. Kenyora is an alumna of the 2023 Roddenberry Foundation Fellowship.



Emma Grasso Levine is the Senior Manager of Title IX Policy and Programs at Advocates for Youth. In this role, Emma manages Know Your IX, a survivor-and youth-led project that empowers students to end sexual violence in schools. Emma holds a degree in Dramatic Writing and Social & Cultural Analysis from NYU, where they focused their thesis on transformative justice and community-based solutions to gender violence. Previously, Emma has successfully organized to create school-based policy change, improve Title IX trainings and processes to

be inclusive of LGBTQI+ students' experiences, and provide free menstrual hygiene products to students. Emma has successfully trained thousands of students and advocates on how to organize to end gender violence and create survivor-centered policy change. As a national expert, Emma has provided expertise on gender violence in schools to news outlets across the country.



Kalina Majercak is AAUW Advocacy Manager at the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and is based in Washington, D.C. At AAUW, Kalina manages grassroots advocacy and cultivation of AAUW's Action Network nationally, supports state public policy leaders across the states, and leads national voter engagement campaigns.

In her previous role as AAUW's Policy Associate, Kalina supported the Policy & Member Advocacy team as well as AAUW's global initiatives and engagement with the United Nations. Kalina holds a B.A. in sociology and women's and gender studies from Georgetown University.



Shiwali Patel is a nationally recognized Title IX expert and leads advocacy addressing gender-based harassment in schools, including sexual harassment and sexual assault. Her work also focuses on strengthening civil rights protections for LGBTQI+ students, advocating against censorship in schools through the proliferation of book and curriculum bans, and addressing other issues of gender equity in education. Previously, she was at the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), where she worked on civil rights policy and

legal guidance interpreting Title IX's anti-discrimination protections, including schools' responsibilities in responding to sexual harassment, protections for transgender students, and the rights of girls of color. Before joining OCR, Shiwali was an Administrative Judge and investigator at the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Hearings and Appeals; a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia in the Sex Offense and Domestic Violence Unit; and a law clerk to the Honorable Laura A. Cordero at the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. Prior to law school, Shiwali was a community educator at the District of Columbia Rape Crisis Center, where she conducted workshops and educational presentations for adults and young people on sexual assault, domestic and dating abuse, and sexual harassment, and was a trained hotline counselor and hospital advocate. Shiwali graduated from Boston University and American University Washington College of Law, where she is an adjunct law professor.

Preventing People from Reading Books Changes the Conversation



Rose Dawson has held the position of Executive Director of the Alexandria Library in Alexandria, Virginia, since 2008, after serving as the deputy director for three years. She holds undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) and has completed the Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) with the Urban Libraries Council and George Washington University's Center for Excellence in Municipal Management, from which she received a certification in public management.

She is a life member of the American Library Association and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) and is an active member of the Virginia Public Library Directors Association and the Public Library Association.

Rose is the 2019 recipient of the UNC-CH School of Information and Library Science Distinguished Alumni Award and 2010 recipient of the BCALA Distinguished Service to the Library Profession Award.

Recognized as a Racial Healing Practitioner, she serves on the City of Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, educating the community concerning the two lynchings that occurred in their town. She has also written articles on the first known library sit-in that occurred in 1939 in Alexandria and conducted several presentations on the need to celebrate and recognize all of one's history.



Lisa R. Varga has been the Executive Director of the Virginia Library Association since 2011. In 2024, she was named the 2024 Librarian of the Year by *Library Journal*. She is active with the Virginia Society of Association Executives, the International Council of Library Association Executives, and the American Library Association Policy Corps, focusing on the Unite Against Book Bans Campaign. She was the Chair of the Virginia Beach Public Library Board from 2023-2024 and was recently honored with a Commending Resolution from the Board of Trustees of the Library of Virginia in Richmond.

Breaking Barriers: Trailblazing Innovators Who Are Changing the Conversation



Ashley Giordano, Manager of Program Management, National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF), has an M.A. in History and a Museum Studies Certificate from the University of Delaware. Her career at NIHF began in 2018 as a curriculum writer, but quickly evolved to reflect her passion for supporting the tactical details of large-scale programs and product development and dissemination. Ashley is currently engaged in research on behalf of NIHF as a member of the Strategic Data Project Fellowship, a program of the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University.



*In honor of 100 years of dedication, determination,
and success – thank you to everyone who has been
part of the journey.*



Above and Beyond Recognition

Tammie Mullins-Rice

Patsy Quick

Suzanne Rothwell

*Thank you for your many contributions to the
2025 AAUW-VA State Conference
and 100th Anniversary Celebration!*

AAUW Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2024-2025

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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. Identify the board member you want to contact. You will receive a response quickly.

AAUW of VIRGINIA BRANCH PRESIDENTS/ADMINISTRATORS

Alexandria	Sylvia Linke and Diane Schrier
Arlington	Theresa Bratt
Fairfax City	Dianne Blais
Falls Church Area	Anne Baxter and Mary Youman
Fredericksburg Area	Janet Hedrick
Greater Manassas	Hannah Senft
Greater Richmond	Lisa Scott and Carol Stephens
Hampton	Carolyn Stewart
Harrisonburg	Laura Zarrugh
Lynchburg	Anitra Webster
McLean Area	Christina Hamilton and Cheryl Williams
Mt. Vernon	Patsy Quick and Elaine Kolish
Newport News	Candace Byrd
Norfolk	Wilma Robinson
Portsmouth	Phyllis Shannon
Reston-Herndon Area	Janine Greenwood
Roanoke Valley	Mary Davis and Carol Elaine Siler
Smith Mountain	Betsy DeWeese
Springfield-Annandale	Cathleen Boivin and Ann Sauberman
Vienna Area	Kate MacLeod and Gail Rosner
Virginia Beach	Maria Kronenburg and Jeanette Olson
Winchester	Patricia Kadel
Woodbridge	Irene Cromer
Wytheville	Anita Aymer

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/>.

AAUW of Virginia

State Conventions/Conferences/Annual Business Meetings

Year	Hosting Branches	State Presidents	Term	Branch When Elected
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		
1931	7. Richmond	Elizabeth Otay	1930-32	Lynchburg
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	12. Petersburg	Dr. Marion Smith		
1937	13. Norfolk	Bernice Whitlock Bowles	1936-38	Newport News
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

Year	Hosting Branches	State Presidents	Term	Branch When Elected
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

Year	Hosting Branches	State Presidents	Term	Branch When Elected
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

Year	Hosting Branches	State Presidents	Term	Branch When Elected
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 ¹	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 ²	Carol Stephens Leslie Tourigny		
2021	96. State Board ³	Suzanne Rothwell Leslie Tourigny	2020-2022	Vienna Area Alexandria and Virginia Beach
2022	97. Northwest District ⁴ State Board	Suzanne Rothwell Leslie Tourigny	2020-2022	Vienna Area Alexandria
2023	98. Southeast District ⁵	Lane Stone	2022-2024	Alexandria
2024	99. Southwest District	Lane Stone		
2025	100. Northern District	Lane Stone	2024-2026	Alexandria

AAUW of Virginia

State Conventions/Conferences/Annual Business Meetings

Footnotes:

¹ Only an Annual Business Meeting was held.

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

³ A virtual State Conference was held, including a virtual Annual Business Meeting.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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

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 pays its respect to their tribal members past and present. The lands that would later become known as Virginia were home to 50,000 Indigenous Peoples comprising at least 15 separate nations prior to the arrival of English settlers. The Commonwealth currently recognizes 11 Indigenous tribes. The tribes that inhabited Northern Virginia and the area that is now the City of Alexandria were parts of or allies with the powerful Powhatan Confederacy.

The AAUW Legacy Circle

By making a planned gift to AAUW National, you become a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle and affirm your commitment to women and girls. Planned gifts expand AAUW's ability to make meaningful strides in our work to advance education, leadership and economic security. Your generous legacy gift will enable AAUW to achieve its bold vision: equity for all.

And what better time than this to join the Legacy Circle—to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Virginia AAUW! You will be warmly welcomed into the circle of Virginia AAUW members—please see the current list.

There is no minimum gift amount and it can take the form of a bequest in your will or trust, retirement plans, insurance, bank accounts, real estate, charitable gift annuities, or charitable remainder trusts. Note that friends of AAUW also are welcome to join the Legacy Circle.

Your planned gift will make a difference in the future. Please contact me for further information—email me for the best time to talk—or contact AAUW National gift planning staff at 202-785-7766 or via email at planned-giving@aauw.org. For more information visit <https://www.aauw.org/legacy>.

Kristin C. Moyer, AAUW Legacy Circle Team Liaison
kcmoyer65@gmail.com

Benefits of Planned Giving

- Planned gifts allow you to provide for your family and support AAUW.
- Bequests do not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.
- Certain planned gifts may reduce estate or capital gains taxes.
- There is no minimum gift requirement, and every gift can be tailored to suit your specific wishes.

As you consider what is important to you and how to reflect that in your legacy, we invite you to reach out to AAUW. Our knowledgeable gift planning staff is available to assist with any questions you may have. You may also request a brochure by calling or emailing AAUW's National Office or using the link below.

For more information, [download the brochure here](#). To enroll, fill out [this form](#).

Growing the Next Generation

Including AAUW in your estate plans is a lovely way to leave an enduring legacy that will support women and girls long into the future.



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



Lessons from the Moon

On the celebration of AAUW of Virginia's centennial year, March 2025

From Alexandria to Wytheville
we are 24 branches of the AAUW tree
planted in Virginia a century ago.
The state chapter came alive in 1925
under a waxing crescent moon,
the lunar phase that tells of intentionality and growth,
clarity and change.

For 100 years we have struggled and aspired,
untiring, to amplify the W in our logo—
the oversized letter that stands for
Women and their rights.
Women's Well-being.
Women's Work and Worth.
Women's Words of Wisdom
for our imperfect World.
We, the Women.

We are changing the conversation,
redirecting the thinking,
illuminating the territory,
advancing what's fair.

We believe in the melding of science
and hard work and intuition, research and caring,
the art of knowing and the skill of doing.
Like the moon's nurturing light,
Women embrace the world to change it,
to birth goodness, new beauty, new life
with the power of a strong and persistent
Women-led movement.

We, the Women of Virginia's AAUW
continue to fight for teachers' rights
and for funding free public schools.

We advocate for the civil liberties of Women and girls of color.
We champion access to STEM programs.
We promote women's reproductive rights.
We ensure equity and inclusivity in the workplace.
We uphold the noble principles of Title IX:
no sex-based discrimination in education.
We affirm that the ERA must become
the 28th Amendment of the US Constitution.

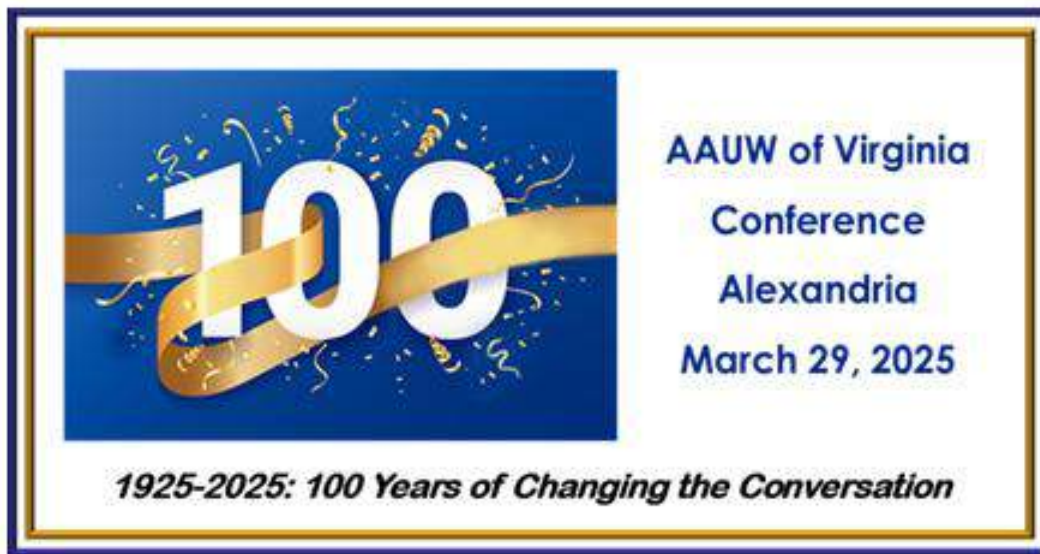
We are changing the conversation,
redirecting the thinking,
illuminating the territory,
advancing what's fair.

We applaud all—
the conversation trail-blazers and cutting-edgers,
the conversation sowers and spreaders,
the conversation modelers and engagers,
the conversation leaders and motivators,
the conversation changers.
We recognize all—in AAUW and in the community—
proudly, lift up their work.

How lovely and meaningful
that tonight we have a new moon
modeling new beginnings,
reminding that our work for a new century is before us.
We cannot see the shadowed moon
but we feel its promise.
As the coming crescent thickens each night
we grow with it and welcome its glow and gleam.
The moon will become more and more luminous
like our shared hopes,
our bright, essential mission.

© Zeina Azzam, March 2025
City of Alexandria Poet Laureate

AAUW OF VIRGINIA STATE CONFERENCE



ADVERTISEMENTS

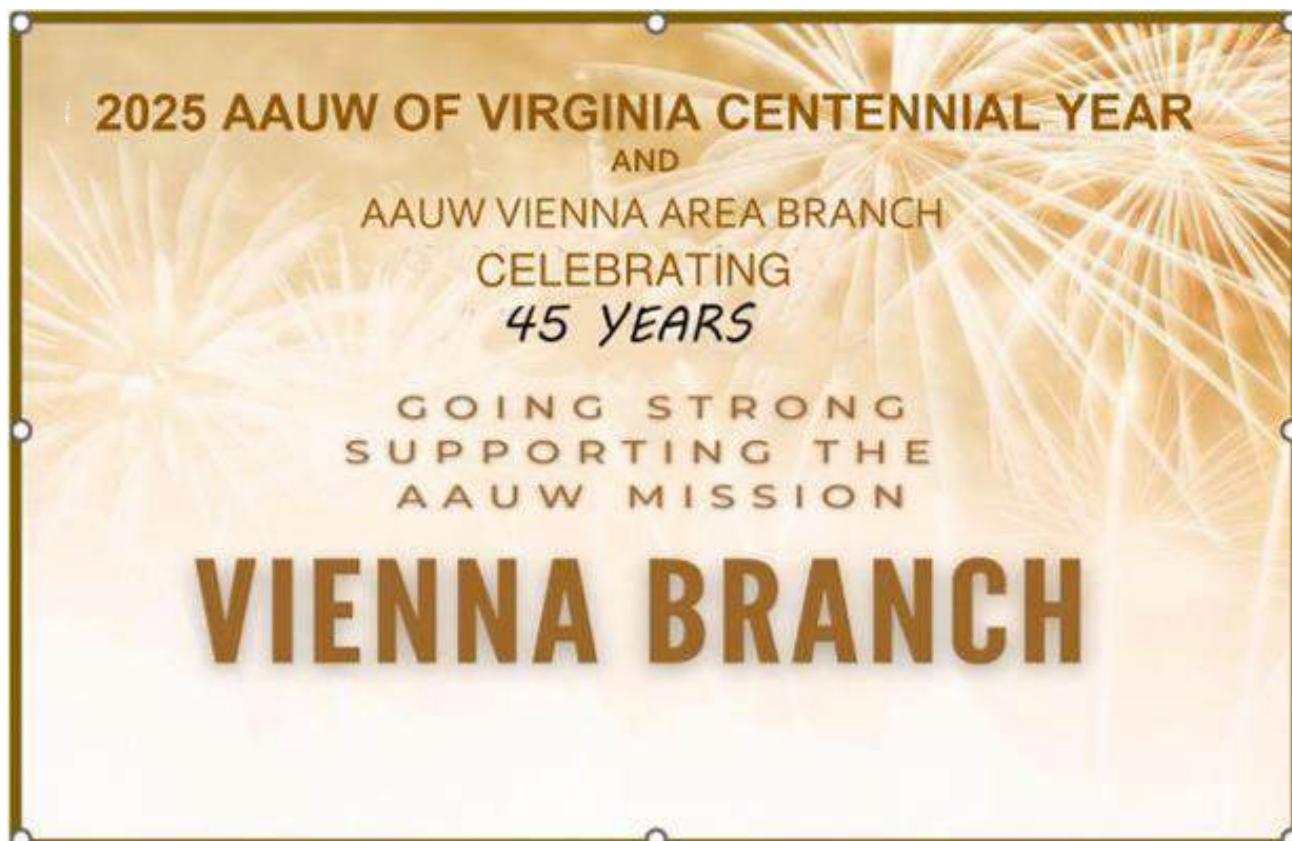
1925-2025
100 Years of Changing the Conversation

March 1925						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

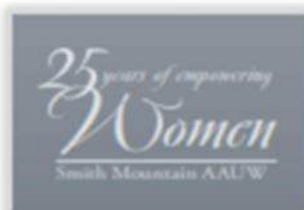
THE AAUW OF VIRGINIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
commends members, past and present,
for changing the conversation.

One century in the history books...
Another century just beginning.

Let the celebration begin...



The Smith Mountain Branch congratulates AAUW Virginia on its 100th Anniversary, as we celebrate our 25 years as a branch affiliate in the Southwest District.



May all Virginia branches continue to make a difference for women and girls, and "change the conversation," in 2025 and into the future!

Lynchburg AAUW

In memory of Norma Jean Rist
January 8, 1946 – February 24, 2024



Norma Jean was a 50-year life member of our affiliate and served as Book Sale Chair and Vice-President of Programs. Since education was important to her, an annual scholarship has been established in her honor and will be awarded in 2025.



AAUW of Virginia
Conference
Alexandria
March 29, 2025

1925-2025: 100 Years of Changing the Conversation

*Mt. Vernon Branch
celebrates 100 years of
AAUW of Virginia.*



Happy
Anniversary

AAUW-VA members are just
getting started.

xoxox

Lane





1925 - 2025

Springfield-Annandale Branch

100 Years of Changing the Conversation Through Outstanding Guest Speakers*



"Speaking Out to Save Free Speech"
Shari Henri, Director of Democracy and
Community Impact, Urban Library Council



"The ERA"
Georgia Fuller,
Women's Activist



"Where Do We Go From Here?"
Delegate Kathy Tran, Virginia House of
Delegates representing the 42nd District



Spring Fling Guest Speaker,
Annie Ray, Annandale High
School Orchestra Teacher,
Fairfax County Public Schools
2023 Outstanding Secondary
Teacher of the Year award,
and winner of the GRAMMY
Music Educator Award



"What Every Woman Should
Know About Finance"

Michelle Massey of Merrill
Lynch and Sylvia Auton,
Author of *Grandma Sylvia's
Guide to the Stock Market*.



"Global Health Equity"
Mary Stutts, CEO,
Healthcare
Businesswomen's
Association



Our Student Inclusion Award
recipient, Kaylee Boateng,
founded, "Girls Need Love," at
John R. Lewis High School in
Springfield

*Thank you, Irene McGhee, and
Amy Crolus, Co-Vice Presidents, Programs

Join us for **Spring Fling**, Friday, **May 9**, Springfield Golf and Country Club,
8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield

JLT 2025



Celebrating
75 Years of
Partnership
with our
Community

Education

Raised
\$200,000 for
more than 200
scholarships



Advocacy

Lobby Corps

28,038 Reclaim
Our Vote
postcards

Partnerships

Graham Road
Elementary
School

Homestretch

VPIS

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

**SALUTE THE 100 YEARS
AND THANK ALL OUR BRANCHES
FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO
AAUW OF VIRGINIA**

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



EST. 2012 • ALEXANDRIA, VA



EMPOWERMENT IS BAKED INTO EVERYTHING WE DO!

Together We Bake's mission is to provide a comprehensive workforce training and personal development program to help women facing barriers to employment gain self-confidence, transferable workforce skills, and invaluable hands-on experience which will allow them to find sustainable employment and move toward self-sufficiency.

All proceeds from sales of our cookies, granola, and trail mix directly support our nonprofit program! Scan the QR code to order and learn more.

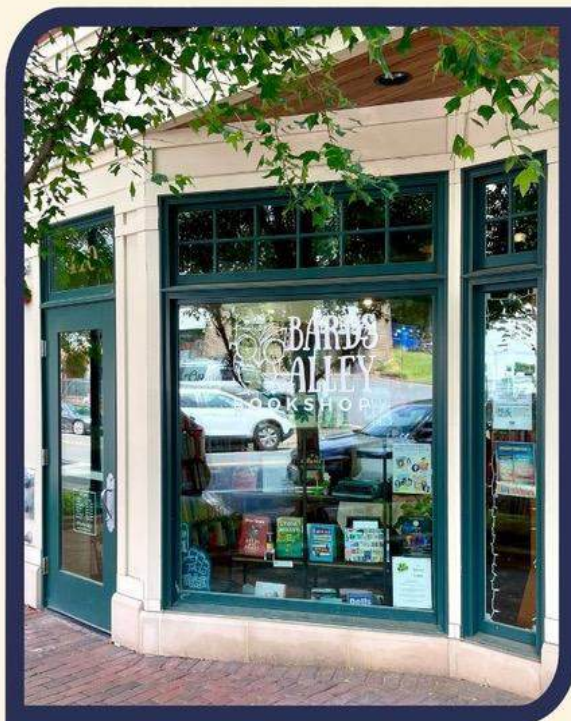




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Trace – The Zero Waste Store

Fairfax County's first bulk refill and plastic-free store

Come shop for bulk foods, refillable soap products and other sustainable goods to reduce your impact on the environment and cut down on unnecessary plastic waste! Locally owned and operated for local impact.

 Trace - The Zero Waste Store

 @tracezerowaste



140 Church Street NW,
Vienna, VA, 22180

**Portsmouth Branch Celebrates
100 years of AAUW of VA and the
leaders that make us great!**

We Remember Barbara S. Desler



Branch Co-President 1997-2001
Dedicated member and friend for many years

Virginia's Newest Branch:

AAUW Fredericksburg Area Branch

**Celebrating AAUW of Virginia
A Century Of Empowering Women and Girls
in the Commonwealth**



Photo Credit Janet Hodrick

A decorative border of pink cherry blossoms and buds frames the central text. The blossoms are in various stages of bloom, with some showing detailed stamens and others as buds. The background is a soft, light pink with a subtle floral pattern.

AAUW ALEXANDRIA
WELCOMES
AAUW VIRGINIA TO ITS BEAUTIFUL CITY
CELEBRATING
AAUW VIRGINIA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY
AND
AAUW ALEXANDRIA'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY



EMPOWER FUTURE GENERATIONS

Join the Legacy Circle to ensure AAUW's mission continues to advance gender equity through education, advocacy, and research.



SCAN TO LEARN
MORE

NEED MORE INFO?

Contact your state liaison **Kristin Moyer:**
kcmoyer65@gmail.com

or AAUW National:
planned-giving@aauw.org

TOGETHER WE CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE

bit.ly/AAUWLegacy

Kudos to AAUW Virginia for celebrating "100 Years of Changing the Conversation"

HAMPTON BRANCH

For the last 75 years, the Hampton branch has assisted in changing the conversation in the Hampton area by:



Advocating for girls in Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Science through hands-on workshops for middle and high school girls since 1991. The workshop was opened to boys in 2024.



Joining with community organizations to ensure our citizens register to vote, elementary school girls are introduced to STEM, middle school girls have period products, and women are educated in the various forms of domestic violence.



Sharing meals and ideas with women from other organizations as we plan our programs for the year and concentrate on fund-raising strategies to raise money for girls entering their freshman year of college/technical school.

The Arlington AAUW branch thanks the many women who came before us for the opportunities we enjoy today.



Founded in 1944, we celebrated our 80th anniversary this year.



100 Book donations to celebrate AAUW
100 years



Scholarship recipients



For Women and Girls Throughout Life



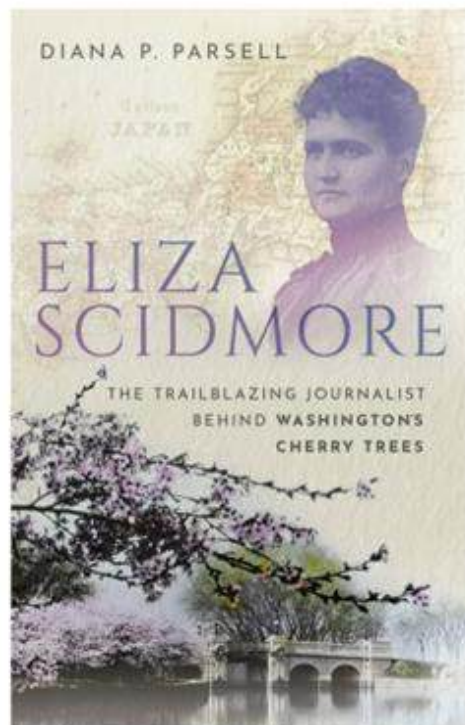
<https://richmond-va.aauw.net/>

Eliza Scidmore: AAUW member, 1921

One of America's pioneering female reporters, Eliza Scidmore (1856-1928) blazed trails from Alaska to Asia, reporting so vividly on little-known places that reviewers likened her words to "Kodaks." In her most enduring legacy, she pushed to have Japanese cherry trees planted in Washington — and partnered with First Lady Helen Taft to make it happen. Now, from AAUW McLean Branch member Diana Parsell, the first biography of this remarkable woman who was far ahead of her time.

❖ Featured by NBC's "Today" Show and Japan TV

❖ Finalist for Society of Midland Authors' 2024 Biography Award



Author Diana Parsell
www.dianaparsell.com

Oxford University Press, 2023
ISBN13: 978-0198869429
In hardcover or Amazon Kindle

"To the canon of women explorers like Gertrude Bell and Nellie Bly,
add Eliza Scidmore to the list of exceptionals."

— Cathy Newman, author of *Women Photographers at National Geographic*

"Inspiring, well researched and a compulsive page turner, this biography is a
thrilling look at an incredible woman and a fascinating era in history."

— Amy Stewart, best-selling author of *The Tree Collectors*



Joins in Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of AAUW of Virginia 1925-2025

Salute to our McLean Area Branch members who have helped lead AAUW of Virginia



Elaine Lailas
State President
1978-1980



Nancy Richardson & Peggy Stotz
State Presidents
1996-1998



Caroline Pickens
State President
2010-2014



Carol Langelier
AAUW-VA 50th Anniversary
Convention Chair, 1975

Branch Highlights



**Local STEM Awards for Middle School
and High School Students**



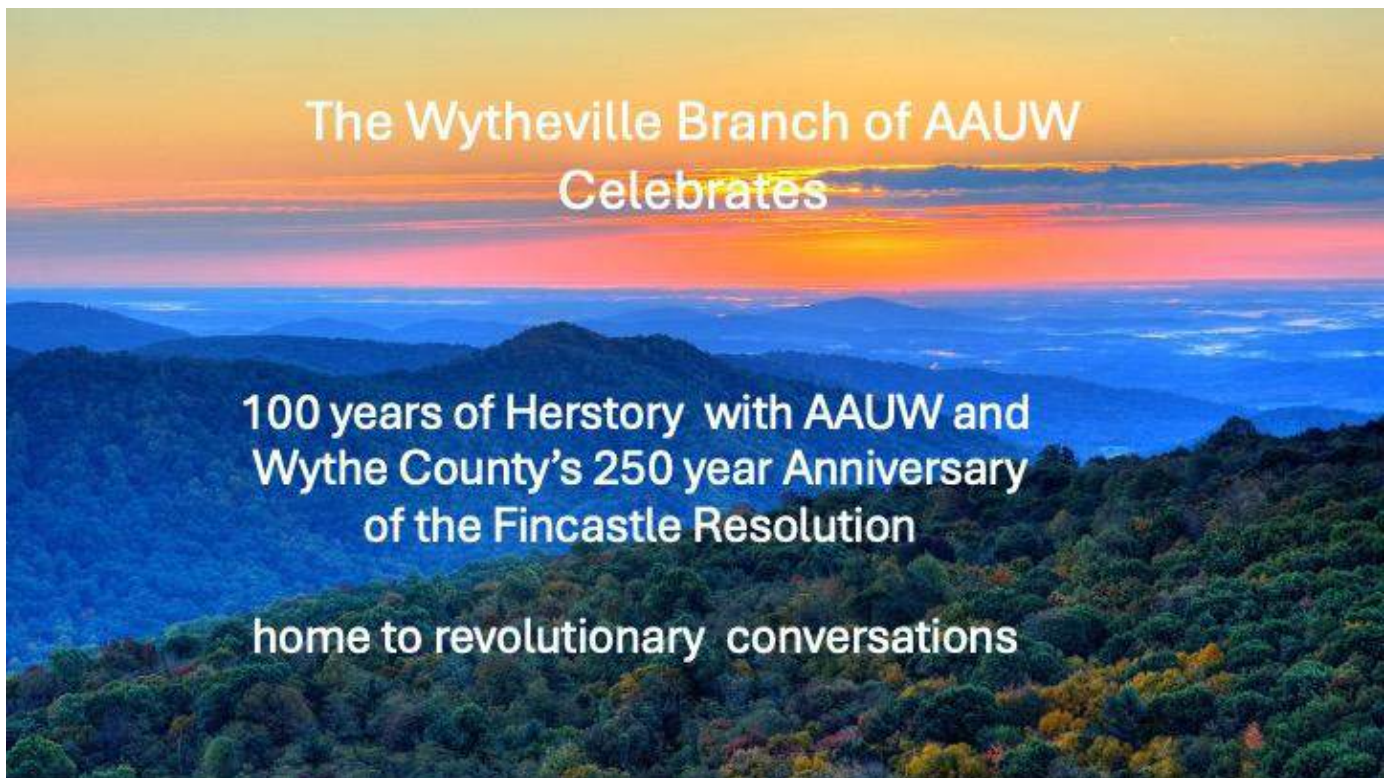
Lobby Day 2025



**100+ books donated to Title1 School
Graham Road Elementary**



**Education support
Scholarships, Fellowships &
Grants for women**





Proud to support
AAUW!



YOUR PURCHASE SUPPORTS



PAYING
FAIR WAGES
in low income communities



EMBRACING
SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES
upcycled, recycled & locally sourced materials



REIMAGINING
HERITAGE CRAFTS
& traditional skills around the world

915 King Street, Old Town Alexandria
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Congratulations
**100 Years of
AAUW Virginia**



Collected over 100
books for REACH



Team rolled \$104 in
change for our Pennies
for Prescription program



Virginia Beach Branch

