

AAUW Vision

of Virginia

Fall 2025

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. 102 No. 1

Save the Date! April 18, 2026



**ON THE FRONT LINES:
Defending Education
and Equity for Women
and Girls**

AAUW-VA Conference 2026, Glen Allen, April 18

The Northwest District branches (Greater Richmond, Winchester, and Fredericksburg Area) cordially invite you to the 101st AAUW-VA Conference, at the Drury Plaza Hotel Richmond, 11049 West Broad Street, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

Join us for afternoon tours and evening entertainment on Friday, April 17, 2026. Then on April 18, we'll spend the day together with interesting speakers, informative panels, catered lunch, and irresistible raffle baskets to support AAUW Greatest Needs Fund.

You can make reservations at the Drury Plaza Hotel by visiting the following link: <https://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10150185> OR CALL 1-800-325-0720 and reference your group number, 10150185, to make your reservation. (The default dates may show as April 16 – April 20; just adjust the dates for your preference.)

To get the group rate, be sure to reserve your room by Sunday, March 15, 2026. Reservations made after this date will be subject to prevailing rates and availability. Hotel amenities include: free parking, complimentary hot breakfast, complimentary evening drinks and snacks, and complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel. On-site facilities include a business center, fitness center, and pool.

Any questions? Email Mary Anne Graham, maryannegrahamatcomcast.net.

We look forward to seeing you there!

AAUW of Virginia Leaders

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Susan Burk

Leslie Tourigny

Vice President for Membership & Branch

Development

Laura Browning
Greenfield

Vice President for Finance

Virginia Kress

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Meg Tuccillo

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AAUW Funds Chair

Ann Johnson

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<http://aauw-va.aauw.net/>

VIRGINIA VISION

Copy Editor:
Mary Anne Graham

Layout Editor:
Tess Evans



From Your President

Are we witnessing another Bonfire of the Vanities?

We associate fifteenth-century Dominican friar, Savonarola, with the burning of luxuries and items of creative expression that were not religious in nature. (He wasn't first, but is best known.) I believe this presaged the Nazi book burning of the 1930s. They burned books opposed to Nazi ideology. The trail has led to today's book bans. We disagree with the sentiment that because "*I don't care to read a certain book, you can't read it either.*"

Last April, the Authors Guild, of which I'm a member, along with Penguin Random House and the Educational Book & Media Association, filed an amicus curiae brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Mahmoud v. Taylor*. Could parents in Montgomery County, Maryland, demand religious opt-outs for books with LGBTQIA+ characters and themes? The parents claimed such books violated their First Amendment right to religious freedom. The court agreed, 6-3. The Author's Guild brief ended with this: "The Free Exercise Clause is not a forcefield that permits some public-school parents to shield their children from exposure to certain people or ideas. . . . Reading *The Communist Manifesto* does not require one to become a Marxist. And, no matter the epic poet Homer's timeless brilliance, reading *The Iliad* does not compel worship of Zeus."

Isn't this really about limiting intellectual freedom? And that's the real danger. It's the goal of not just book bans, but also the use of previously approved federal funds to bully universities. It's another reason AAUW is relevant, and you are needed.

Because of this and our other challenges, the state board unanimously approved (and applauded) the theme of the 2026 AAUW-VA state conference: *On the Front Lines: Defending Education And Equity for Women and Girls*. (Mark your calendars for April 18, 2026.)

I'll end this with a big thank you for your monetary contributions. I recently received a report of our January through August 2025 donations. The Vienna branch was on top, followed by Alexandria. So many members made donations. The list was loooong. You all amaze me!

Thank you for making AAUW a force to be reckoned with!

Lane

District Representatives

Northern

Sandy Lawrence
Sharon Zackula

Northwest

Mary Anne Graham

Southeast

Joan Jenkins

Southwest

Susan McSlarrow

AAUW-VA Conference 2026



DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ADS IS FEBRUARY 1, 2026

It is a long-standing tradition for AAUW-VA branches to create branch ads and purchase ad space in the annual conference program and business meeting books. The ad revenue is used to pay state conference expenses. By purchasing an ad, your branch will help keep registration costs down.

(Branch raffle baskets will again be requested to support AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund. More information will be provided at a later date.)

You could choose to have your branch's ad highlight your branch's history and call attention to the accomplishments of your branch; celebrate a special branch anniversary; invite participants to a branch fundraiser or program; honor or recognize a special member; celebrate the life of a deceased member; or support a business that wants to be known to AAUW members.

Steps to create, submit, and Pay for an Ad: Create the ad text and artistic design. Save the ad in JPEG format (Do NOT send ads as Word documents). To save a file in JPEG, click "File," then select "Save As." From there, choose JPEG in the "Save as Type" menu. All ads can be in color at no extra cost! Please send your branch ad via email to me. My email address is: maryannegrahamatcomcast.net.

Please make the check for the ad payable to: AAUW of Virginia State Conference and mail it to the conference treasurer, Marsha Gochenour, 201 Crest Circle, Winchester, VA 22602.

Ad Rates:

Full-page \$95

Half-page \$75

Quarter-page \$35

Deadline to submit and pay for the ads: February 1, 2026. If there are any changes in the procedures and/or dates, we will keep you posted. Thanks for your support.

Conference registration info forthcoming in January 2026.

Mary Anne Graham
Northwest District Representative

Virginia State Named Honorees

In 2020, the Virginia State Board created a special honor for those in Virginia whose actions have had a broad impact on furthering AAUW-VA's mission and priorities and who provided exceptional service to the state beyond the branch or local community. It is time for nominations for this year's AAUW-VA State Named Honorees, and we would like your help!

While this award is similar to what branches currently do to honor individuals and organizations in their branches and communities, the difference is that the State Named Honoree Award honors those who have made exceptional contributions to furthering AAUW's mission and priorities statewide. AAUW of Virginia will honor members, non-members, branches, or organizations whose extraordinary actions have had a broad impact in the state, beyond a branch and its community.

The criteria for these nominations are as follows:

The nominee may be an AAUW-VA member whose actions have had a statewide impact by providing outstanding service or exceptional contributions to AAUW-VA. The committee may also consider a non-member or organization that has provided outstanding service to the state in furthering the mission and priorities of AAUW-VA.

The recipient cannot be a current state board member or a person seeking elective political office in the year when the award is presented at the state conference.

Detailed information must be presented with the nomination that substantiates the contribution and service of the nominee.

The nominations deadline is November 14, 2025. Nominations may be submitted easily online at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/state-named-honoree-nomination-form/>. The committee reviews all nominations and may recommend to the state board a nominee for each \$500 contributed to AAUW Funds by the AAUW-VA state affiliate. The board will approve the honoree(s) at its January 2026 board meeting.

Ann Johnson
AAUW Funds Chair

“One of the most calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul.”

– Clarissa Pinkola Estés, author

Membership and Branch Development

In reading the branches' activities in the *Vision*, AAUW-VA members love to read. Many branches have book clubs. AAUW MEMBERSHIP MATTERS is not a book; however, I have found it to be a valuable tool for branch leaders to read thoroughly when published. We commit to reading novels in our leisure, which is great! National AAUW continues to provide state branches with information for recruitment, HUB accessibility, affiliate benefits, and more. So, let's start reading to stay up to date on what matters.

AAUW MEMBERSHIP MATTERS should be archived for current and future leaders as a blueprint of reminders of the benefits members can receive, and keeping branches current with important deadlines for filing necessary forms and more. Branch members should ensure that their emails are correct to receive this informative material.

Congratulations to 13 branches for earning free National memberships for SHAPE THE FUTURE membership recruitment from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. The redemption form must be used to claim free National membership by the extended date of October 31, 2025:

Three free National memberships

Falls Church Area
McLean Area
Vienna Area
Smith Mountain
Fredericksburg Area

Two free National memberships

Alexandria
Arlington
Lynchburg
Greater Richmond

One free National membership

Harrisonburg
Mt Vernon
Portsmouth
Springfield-Annandale

The SHAPE THE FUTURE coupon code is STFFY26 to be used until March 30, 2026.

Ms. Magazine is once again offering four print issues for all renewals and new memberships starting in FY26. Open your email from: infosf@aauw.org to review all the benefits of being a member.

Remember, because AAUW is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, you can deduct all of your national dues when you pay your personal federal taxes.

Thanks to everyone for your energy and commitment as we move forward to fuel the future of AAUW-VA.

Laura Browning Greenfield
VP for Membership and Branch Development

“One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.”

– Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and education activist

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)

Have you looked at the 2025 AAUW Strategic Plan released last spring? It includes statements and goals related specifically to our DEI work. Some of these statements are:

- Remove barriers to success in education and the workplace.
- Champion legislation supporting paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, pay equity, and workplace harassment protections.
- Promote inclusive, safe, and accessible educational environments through enforcement of Title IX and other civil rights laws.

Branches have been working on these issues, and our public policy team has informed us about important legislation in these areas. As the new year of our work begins, let's be sure to reach out to nearby universities to ensure they feel supported in their equity efforts, continue to show support for equity in the workplace, and work with our local school systems on enforcing Title IX legislation.

We have work to do, and together we can have a positive impact on these and other issues to help ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion are recognized as important values in any community.

Meg Tuccillo
Vice President for DEI

“It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan.”

– Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady and human rights activist

Five-Star Report

Congratulations to the 18 branches that received stars!

Four Stars

Alexandria
Programs* Communications*
Public Policy* Governance*

Arlington
Programs* Communications*
Public Policy*
Governance*

Hampton
Programs* Communications*
Public Policy* Governance*

Springfield-Annandale
Programs* Communications*
Public Policy* Governance*

Virginia Beach
Programs* Communications*
Public Policy* Governance*

Winchester
Programs* Communications*
Public Policy*
Governance*

Woodbridge
Programs* Communications*
Public Policy*
Governance*

Smith Mountain
Programs* Communications*
Public Policy* Governance*

Mt. Vernon
Advancement* Communications*
Public Policy* Governance*

Three Stars

Falls Church Area
Programs* Communications*
Public Policy*

McLean Area
Programs*
Communications*
Public Policy*

Vienna Area
Advancement*
Public Policy* Governance*

Wytheville
Communications*
Public Policy* Governance*

Reston-Herndon Area
Communications*
Public Policy* Governance*

Greater Richmond
Communications*
Public Policy*
Governance*

Two Stars

Lynchburg
Programs*
Governance*

Roanoke Valley
Programs*
Governance*

Portsmouth
Communications*
Public Policy*

Our goal continues to be 100% branch participation in completing the annual survey. AAUW-VA showed incredible work supporting AAUW's mission from programming to policy and governance efforts.

Laura Browning Greenfield
VP for Membership & Branch Development

College/University Partners

There are currently eight college/university partners in Virginia:



George Mason University
James Madison University
Randolph College
Shenandoah University
University of Mary Washington
University of Virginia at Wise
Virginia State University
Washington and Lee University

In September, AAUW National published a College/University newsletter for campus professionals, students, and C/U relations officers at the state and branch levels. Additionally, a C/U toolkit is available on the AAUW website.

***Marsha Melkonian/Barbara Woodlee
Co-Chairs College/University Partners***

“Injustice makes the rules, and courage breaks them.”

– Ursula K. Le Guin, author

Program

The AAUW-VA Program Year Kicks-Off

At the invitation of the AAUW-VA co-vice presidents for program, AAUW-VA branch program officers, presidents, and some state board members met virtually on September 16 to discuss program resources and share ideas on programs that will engage branch members and raise the visibility of AAUW-VA in their communities.

During the meeting, members took a tour of the program page on the state website, which highlights resources for branches. Click [here](#) to visit also. AAUW National resources, in the form of previously-aired webinars on various subjects, lend themselves to ready-made branch programs. Likewise, AAUW toolkits are useful for planning branch activities.

For 2025-2026, three **program priorities** were raised during the meeting:

1. Encourage Virtual All-District Meetings and Programs

The first all-district meeting for this program year occurred on October 14. Jane Newell, Greater Richmond Branch AAUW Funds chair, AAUW honorary life member, and the League of Women Voters of Virginia director of transformation, delivered a presentation on One Person, One Vote: The National Popular Vote vs. the Electoral College. This virtual program was open to all AAUW-VA members in all four districts. Five times in our history, the U.S. presidential candidate with the most popular votes was not elected. That's because people don't elect presidents – the Electoral College does. Jane provided a fascinating program exploring the League of Women Voters' plan to abolish the antiquated Electoral College, which has roots in racism. She discussed the history, impact, myths, and approaches to solving this problem, including the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

2. AAUW of Virginia 2026 Conference

Planning is well underway for AAUW-VA's 2026 state conference that will be held at the Drury Plaza Hotel Richmond in Glen Allen, VA, on Saturday, April 18, 2026. Pre-conference activities are in the works for Friday, April 17, 2026. The theme and logo (below) were approved by the Board in July 2025.



The conference program is coming together nicely and will focus on many of the issues raised by the current assault on public education. Stay tuned! (See pages 1 & 3 for more information.)

Those who attended the conference in Alexandria in March 2025 will remember the program panel, featuring the McLean Area, Hampton, and Smith Mountain Branches. Each branch described a program they presented for which they received a mini-grant. The panel's intent was so branches could find out about programs they may want to replicate—without reinventing the wheel.

Program Continued...

We are planning a similar panel at the 2026 conference, with one exception—not all of the programs need to have received a mini-grant—but we want to feature great programs that can be replicated.

If, at the conference, your branch wants to be one of the three featured branches called upon to discuss a great program you presented, please let us know **no later than October 18**.

3. Increase Utilization of the Program Swap Shop

In September 2025, we instituted the Program Swap Shop so that branches could 1) advertise upcoming programs to other branches to increase participation, and 2) share information about excellent programs that have been presented so that other branches can replicate them.

This is where we need your help. There are only 11 programs that have been entered in the Program Swap Shop so far, and we know there are many, many more great programs presented by branches. Please go to the AAUW-VA website, Program Swap Shop, Part 2, and for each great program your branch presented, fill out a quick form. Thanks.

Another source for finding out about great programs that branches presented is to look through the Branches in Action sections in prior *Visions*. These are easily found on our website, going back to 2009.

Susan Burk (burksuataol.com)/ Leslie Tourigny (ltourignyatgmail.com)
Co-Vice Presidents for Program

***“The most courageous act is still to think for yourself.
Aloud.”***

***– Coco Chanel, French fashion designer and
businesswoman***

Branches in Action

Summer has ended, and the **Alexandria Branch** is gearing up for another productive year. The branch finished last year trying out a new place called Elaine's in Old Town, where we elected officers, reviewed the last year's activities, passed the budget for this year, and heard about the City of Alexandria Sister City Program with Caen, France; Dundee, Scotland; and Helsingborg, Sweden; from branch member Esther Petrilli-Massey. For the fall, members are writing Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) postcards in anticipation of the November election. The branch is planning programs on the women in the Supreme Court, the school-to-prison pipeline, and women in the Revolutionary War in honor of the 250th anniversary in 2026. On February 6, 2026, the **Alexandria** and **Mount Vernon Branches** will be sponsoring a fundraiser at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. The featured play will be "School of Rock," preceded by a reception. Stay tuned for further details.

Anne Simpson
Co-President

The **Arlington Branch** has an interesting series of fall programs to kick off the year. In September, the branch hosted a speaker from the Fairfax office of Braver Angels, an organization formed in 2016 to bridge the partisan divide by bringing people together to better understand one another and get beyond stereotypes. The Arlington Library director, Nick Reynolds, will discuss issues like book banning facing libraries in November. Members are hoping that these programs will attract a broader audience and encourage others to join AAUW.

Members are looking forward to once again mentoring older immigrant students at Arlington Community High School beginning in October. The book discussion group will be reading "The Accidental President" by A. J. Baime, "Money, Lies, and God" by Katherine Stewart, and "Tell Me Everything" by Elizabeth Strout. The branch is joining other branches across Virginia to encourage greater voter participation in state and local elections by committing to sending out 200 GOTV postcards to voters in Richmond.

Terry Bratt
Co-President

The **Fredericksburg Area Branch** started its year in August with strategic planning following a potluck dinner at a member's home. Over 50% of the branch's membership attended and participated in a discussion about initiatives for the branch.

Fredericksburg Area Branch continued...

In late August, the branch identified six potential members at an event at the local Farmers Market. The branch hosted Dr. Erin Devlin, associate professor and the American Studies Program coordinator for the University of Mary Washington (UMW), on September 6. She spoke on segregation in national parks in Virginia. Members brought friends, and two of those guests joined AAUW.

The meeting on October 4 was at the Fredericksburg Area Museum with a tour of a special exhibit: Living Legacies: African American History in the Fredericksburg Area.

In October, members will meet with Mindy Erchull, the new director of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at UMW, to discuss collaboration.

Janet Hedrick
President

The **Greater Richmond Branch** had a successful postcarding party at The Veil, a local craft brewery, on August 10, with 13 members and one guest sipping, visiting, and writing postcards for GOTV this fall. Writers succeeded in completing, or almost completing, 300 postcards mailed in September!

The branch held its annual fall kickoff at Gramophone, a local wine bar, where it held a successful fundraiser last February. The branch's AAUW Funds chair, Jane Newell, gave a presentation with visuals about the changes over the last 10 years in AAUW Funds and talked about the ways that individuals can contribute to AAUW Funds. Members also celebrated two 50-year honorary life members and another member's birthday.

Members are looking forward to continuing service projects this year, as well as adding two program meetings using AAUW webinars.

Carol Stephens
President

The **Hampton Branch** ended the 2025 fiscal year with training and a lunch for new and potential members. At the end of the meeting, a local women's group presented the branch with an array of sanitary items (period products) that will allow the branch to continue sharing santi-packs with local middle schools in Hampton middle schools

Hampton Branch continued...

in Hampton and Newport News. Zooming was the major information route during July and August. Members listened to town hall Zooms hosted by local, state, and federal legislators concerning H.R.1 – The Big Beautiful Bill – and its impact on Medicare, education, and major food supply chains (SNAP, school lunches, and food banks). These were followed by members completing 200 ROV cards, mailed on September 15, 2025. The highlight of the summer was learning that the branch received four stars from the Five-Star Program for FY 2024-2025.

Carolyn Stewart
President

The **Lynchburg Branch** approved a strategic plan for 2025-2027 and is working toward fulfilling criteria for the FY26 AAUW Five-Star Program. A public policy chair and diversity officer have been appointed, and the updated annual yearbook was distributed to all members.

The branch kicked off the 2025-2026 year with a September voter education meeting that included lunch, followed by a guest speaker and business meeting. Executive Director Liz White of UpVote Virginia provided an informative program and discussion regarding ranked-choice voting and nonpartisan resources for members.

Lynchburg also hosted two postcard writing events as part of the Center for Common Ground ROV Campaign. Thirteen members worked diligently and enjoyed completing 300 postcards, which will be mailed to voters in the Roanoke area to remind them to vote in the November 4th election. In addition, the current events discussion group, which started this summer, will continue to meet monthly throughout the upcoming year, along with the book discussion group and convivial gatherings, which meet during designated months.

Finally, the branch was awarded an AAUW-VA mini-grant to partner with Bonnie Svrcek and the next Virginia Women's Municipal Leadership Institute Cohort, which will start in March 2026. Members are excited about this opportunity and the upcoming year!

Paula C. Lichiello
VP Programs/DEI Representative

The **McLean Area Branch** kicked off the year with the 51st Used Book Sale at the McLean Community Center. The branch's annual fundraising event has been dormant since before the pandemic, as the branch lost its collection facility following the

McLean Area Branch continued...

pandemic. The branch learned it had collection sites in late spring and had a brief time to execute the sales. Members were successful in collecting more books than expected and attracted a healthy crowd of customers who expressed their gratitude at the return of the sale.

The branch's program year kicked off with a presentation by NOVA Parks historian, Paul McCray, who shared the story of How Black Female Students Challenged Virginia's Jim Crow Laws by refusing to relinquish their bus seats on a return trip from Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Vienna, VA, 11 years before Rosa Parks did the same in Montgomery, AL.

Cheryl Williams
Co-President

Members of the **Mount Vernon Branch** have been upset by current administration decisions and policies and certain court decisions on issues relevant to AAUW's mission.

Branch members are fighting back by responding to Action Alerts from AAUW, supporting GOTV efforts, and showing compassion for others who are hurting from those decisions.

In September, members wrote 780 postcards to get out the vote! The branch is also supporting those in need in our community in tangible ways by asking members to bring new or gently used clean towels to a September event to meet New Hope Housing's client needs. Similar efforts will follow in subsequent months.

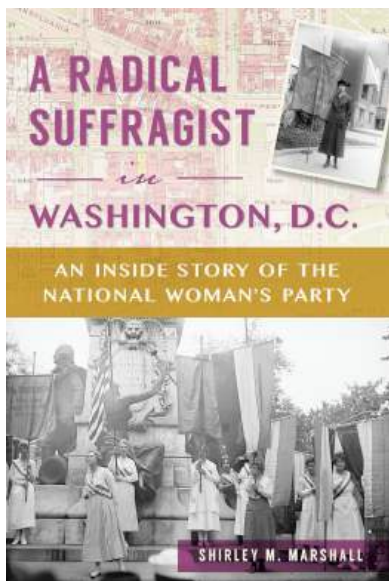
In October, members are having a roundtable with three local human services non-profits by asking them to describe the challenges they are facing from the administration's cutbacks and how we might help them.

Elaine Kolish
Co-President

The **Northern District** meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. It will take place at the Pohick Regional Library, located at 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, VA. Author Shirley Marshall will speak about her book, "A Radical Suffragist in Washington, DC: An Inside Story of the National Women's Party." Her book will be available for purchase. Following her presentation, there will be a business meeting where branches can discuss upcoming events. Family and friends are

Northern District continued...
welcome to attend.

Sandy Lawrence and Sharon Zackula
Northern District Co-Representatives



The branches in the **Northwest District (Greater Richmond, Winchester, Fredericksburg Area)** have held several meetings to plan for the 2026 conference, Saturday, April 18, 2026, with events to be held the previous day, April 17, 2026. Articles in the *Vision* will help members plan for the conference.

The annual district meeting will be held January 31, 2026 (snow date, February 7), Human Trafficking in the Fredericksburg Area, with Major Delbert L. Myrick, Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office, location: University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg Campus, Combs 139, 2:00 p.m. Free and open to the public. The meeting will also be on Zoom. Details will be forthcoming.

Mary Anne Graham
Northwest District Representative

The **Portsmouth Branch** kicked off the 2025-2026 year with a Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) postcard writing meeting on September 16. Members are supporting efforts to encourage eligible voters to register and vote in every election. Branch members look forward to attending and supporting the Southeast District meetings and activities in October and February. Branch meetings are being planned with details pending in November and March. The active book group resumed meetings in September. Portsmouth members are committed to working in support of the AAUW mission and public policy initiatives.

Phyllis Shannon
President

The **Reston-Herndon Area Branch** is looking forward to a busy fall. Members watched the local election for the 11th Congressional District and candidates attending debates. Members helped create and verify the AAUW-VA Voter Guides for the races for governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general for the November Virginia election. Members are writing postcards to get out the vote, and the branch had two postcarding parties in September.

The first program of the fall will feature Hall Baldwin, the Reston Regional Library branch manager, speaking on book bans and other challenges to the Fairfax libraries.

On a sad note, the branch is mourning the deaths of three long-time members, Shirley Finkelstein, Glenna Paukstis, and Roberta Shermans, in recent months.

Janine Greenwood
President

Smith Mountain Branch members had a busy summer! Members celebrated the branch's 25th anniversary at a festive summer cocktail party with family and friends. Six local 5th-grade girls attended a week of science camp through the branch's community outreach sponsorship. The fundraiser team is hard at work planning the Carnivale-themed fall fundraiser (Nov 12) with a silent auction, door prizes, festival luncheon, wine bar, 50/50 raffle, photo booth, and multi-media fashion show.

The scholarship committee is updating college application materials to launch the 2026 application process in January. Members enjoy continuing learning through the classics book study and international study groups.

Two successful postcard writing parties will help get out the vote. The branch meeting in September introduced a program on the science behind keeping lake water healthy, followed by a catered BBQ lunch.

The branch is 85 strong and excited for another year of supporting education for women and girls in the local community!

Betsy DeWeese
President

FY 26 is starting with a new **Southeast District Representative** from the **Hampton Branch**! My name is Joan Jenkins, and I am excited to be working with the five branches in the district: **Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Newport News, Norfolk, and Hampton**. Having received my honorary

Southeast District continued...

lifetime membership this year, I have been an active attendee at conferences during my 50-year membership with AAUW-VA and have served as president of the **Hampton Branch** for several terms.

I am eager to start the partnership with the SE branches as we collectively continue advocacy for women and girls, working to provide information to college students in Hampton Roads.

Dates for our program's meetings are October 18, 2025, and February 28, 2026. Locations, planned programs, and presenters will be announced once confirmed.

I anticipate meeting the other district representatives to swap ideas on the various branch activities across the Commonwealth.

Joan E. Jenkins
Southeast District Representative

2025 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the **Springfield-Annandale Branch**! Program VPs Beth Boivin and Amy Crolus have lined up excellent and inspirational speakers for 2025-26. One of the main themes for the year will be Women Breaking Boundaries.

On September 24, the speaker was Master Police Officer Julia Cole, a member of the Culpeper Police Department. She serves as the department's public information officer, as well as in various other community outreach initiatives.

The October 29 meeting features Kate McDonald, a partner in charge of McDermott's healthcare practice in Washington, D.C. She is a contributing author to key healthcare law publications and a frequent speaker at leading industry forums.

The October meeting will be held at the Pohick Library in Burke at 7:00 p.m. All members and guests are welcome. Save the date! The annual Spring Fling fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 21, at the Springfield Golf and Country Club.

Cathleen Boivin
Co-President

Since the 1990s, **Woodbridge** and the **Greater Manassas Branches** have collaborated for STEM Career conferences, partnered for programs, shared dual memberships, and co-presented annual American Education Week and Celebration of STEAM events. As members look forward to continuing their involvement with Virginia AAUW for over 50 years, the **Greater Manassas Branch's** members have transferred to the

Woodbridge Branch/Greater Manassas continued...

Woodbridge Branch to sustain their AAUW involvement. Members celebrate earning four out of five stars in National's program, including five graduate student members working toward advanced degrees, lauding two honorary life members and life members, and welcoming new AAUW members across the lifespan.

The celebration of STEAM awardees in July was the fifth together and the second acknowledging the regional Science & Engineering Fair awardees from the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics National Capital Section; the Congressperson serving on the House Science Committee presented awards. Middle school science fair winners also won AIAA awards, and they are seniors in college who presented at the 33rd annual Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS! Conference this past March — a project begun by the **Manassas Branch** in 1991. Together, both branches look forward to more years of collaboration.



Aditi & Anika Mukul, AAUW Science Fair winners as 8th graders in 2018, and AIAA awardees in 2021, joined the celebration.



Awardee Paige & her parents receiving the inaugural John Starsiak Memorial 2nd Place Award presented by his widow, honorary life member Barbara Ondo at the June 28th Celebration of STEAM event.

Susan Barginhagen
Membership VP/STEM Liaison

The **Wytheville Branch's** welcome social on August 26 was at Alma Watson's home. Wytheville gained three new members from that evening, with the potential for three more. The year is off to a good start.

Members are proud to say that it has achieved three stars this year: Governance & Sustainability, Public Policy & Advocacy, and Communications & External Relations. Branch goals have helped us be successful.

Members were able to provide voter/education & registration at Wytheville Community College and are continuing to GOTV with its 200 ROV postcards.

For over two decades, branch community outreach efforts have focused on assisting the Family Resource Center, which is a support network for abused women. Each year, the branch provides household items and gift cards for the holidays.

The international dinner in May focused on French Polynesia and was presented by member Nancy Wills. It was a travel log of Tahiti with a taste of Polynesian cuisine.



Wytheville Branch International Dinner, May 2025

Anita Aymer
President

“If you surrender to the wind, you can ride it.”

– Toni Morrison, author

Bylaws and Resolutions

Call for Proposed State Bylaws Amendments and Proposed Resolutions

The AAUW of Virginia Bylaws and Resolutions chair is issuing a call to all AAUW Virginia members for proposed amendments to the state bylaws and for proposed resolutions to be presented at the AAUW of Virginia annual business meeting to be held in 2026.

Any bylaw amendments and resolutions will be voted on under the One Member, One Vote procedure. Please submit bylaws amendments and resolutions to the Bylaws and Resolutions chair by email no later than December 1, 2025, using the contact information provided on the AAUW-VA webpage: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/contact-us/>.

A proposed bylaws amendment submitted must include a copy of the original section of the bylaws being amended, a marked-up version showing the specific wording of the amendment, and a clean version showing the language as it would be revised. The bylaws amendment proposal must include a statement of the rationale for the amendment. I am available to assist any member who is not familiar with the mark-up function of the computer (also called redlining). See the current AAUW of Virginia Bylaws at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/library/>.

A proposed resolution must include the specific wording of the resolution, a statement of the rationale for the proposed resolution, and a proposed plan for the implementation of the resolution. You may wish to review Article XVII, Section 6 of the AAUW of Virginia Bylaws about the resolution process.

Suzanne Rothwell
Bylaws and Resolutions Chair

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer.”

***– Harriet Tubman, abolitionist and conductor on the
Underground Railroad***

IRS & Bylaws Matters

Reminders on IRS and Bylaws Matters

IRS Form 990-N—Please see my email to branch presidents of August 16, 2025 (or contact me for a copy) for directions on how to make your branch’s annual mandatory submission to AAUW, including the information needed for AAUW to submit the 2025 IRS Form 990-N to the IRS on behalf of your branch by October 15, 2025. In certain circumstances, a branch must also directly submit Form 990-N to the IRS.

Update to Branch Bylaws Necessary by June 30, 2026—In 2023, AAUW issued revised AAUW Affiliate Model Bylaws text, which can be found at the AAUW website at [MODEL BYLAWS](https://aauw-va.aauw.net/contact-us/). Affiliates are required to make these bylaw changes by June 30, 2026. Branch membership approval is not required. There remain seven Virginia branches that have not submitted their changes to me. I have issued email guidance several times since 2023, providing directions on how branches should update their bylaws by completely replacing the first seven articles with new text. Please check whether the text of the first seven articles of your branch's bylaws matches those on the website included above. If not, contact me for the written directions on making the necessary revisions using either my email or <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/contact-us/>. Thereafter, when you make these and any other changes to your bylaws, please forward the proposed revisions to me for review before final approval by your board.

Suzanne Rothwell
Bylaws and Resolutions Chair

***“The most common way people give up their power is
by thinking they don’t have any.”***

– Alice Walker, American novelist and social activist

Public Policy

The upcoming Virginia election is crucial for our values. AAUW-VA distributed, under Denise Murden's leadership, approximately 8,800 cards. Janine Greenwood has created Voter Guides for the statewide elections of governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general. Voter Guides are also being created for the competitive delegate elections. The Voter Guides can be found on the AAUW Virginia Website. (<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/direcpublicpolicy/>).

Meetings are being held in the General Assembly to discuss the effects of the cuts on the tax basis through the firings of federal personnel and the cutbacks in research and education grants. Medicaid cuts in Virginia alone are causing the closing of a rural hospital in Franklin and a health group. Several more are at risk. It is important to urge everyone to vote. Early voting started on September 19. Vote by mail has been in the news a lot lately. If you decide to do so, please mail your vote at least two weeks in advance and then check to ensure it has arrived. As the Department of Homeland Security is now working with the Virginia Department of Elections, it is important to check your voter registration, even if you have voted many times before. To check your voter status, you can go to your Department of Elections office, or you can do it online. The URLs of two places to check are:

Dept. of Elections: www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/view-your-info

Rock The Vote: www.rockthevote.org/how-to-vote/am-I-registered-to-vote/

Recent actions by the Department of Education affected education at the national and state levels, including the removal of funding for higher education where there are minority quotas, the removal of funding for special education needs, and possible changes in the provisions of public service loan forgiveness. As of this writing, the U.S. House has decided to make a Continuing Resolution that will last for seven weeks before finalizing the 2026 budget. The Senate has rejected it. Overall, Department of Education funding would be cut by 15%. Federal Student Aid for college and beyond would be cut by \$1.4 billion. Title I school funding would be cut by 27% or \$5.2 billion. Funding for teacher training and professional development would be eliminated. Funding for Pell, TRIO, and GearUp levels is unfunded. IES (research within the Department) would be cut by 80%.

Five areas in Northern Virginia are being forced to apply for reimbursement funds to support special education needs and other vital services due to a lawsuit by America First. Fairfax County has filed an appeal against this action. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit has denied the appeal due to a lack of jurisdiction over a federal issue.

Save February 5 for Lobby Day, with a meeting the evening before. Rooms will be available at the Hampton Inn in Downtown Richmond.

AAUW National has decided not to join the lawsuit to enroll the ERA. It has passed the ratification requirement and is now part of the Constitution. The date limit was only in the Preamble and is not part of the actual amendment. Legal discussions will continue.

Diane Schrier
VP for Public Policy

AAUW-Virginia Board Calendar

2025-2026

October

15	State Board reports due; Liason Reports required	AAUW-VA Board
15	Vision distributed	Communications VP
15	Deadline to submit IRS Form 990-N to AAUW	Finance VPs—Br/St
18	SE District Meeting, Hampton	SE District Rep.
23	Disabled Women's Equal Pay Day	Public Policy VP
23	6p, Virtual Public Policy Meeting	Public Policy VP
24	Deadline to register to vote/update registration for VA Gen Election	Public Policy VP
24	Deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail in VA General Election	Public Policy VP
25	1p – 4p, AAUW-VA board mtg	President
26	9a – 12p, AAUW-VA board mtg	President
27	7p, Branch Leader Chat	President
28	Nominating committee preliminary report to board	Nominating Comm.

November

1	12p, Northern District meeting	District Reps.
1	5p, Deadline to vote early in person	Public Policy VP
3	3p, Branch Leader Chat	President
3	5p, Deadline to request replacement absentee ballot	Public Policy VP
3	2p, Deadline to request emergency absentee ballots	Public Policy VP
4	6a – 7p, Virginia General Election	Public Policy VP
13	7p, Great Decisions, India: Between China, the West and the Global South (facilitated by Danielle Beach)	
14	Deadline for receipt of State Named Honoree nominations	AAUW-Funds Chair
15	Senator Warner's Virginia Women's Conference, Geo. Mason Univ.	Public Policy VP
18	Native Women's Equal Pay Day	Public Policy VP

December

1	Deadline for proposed bylaws amendments/resolutions	Bylaws/Res chair
4	7p, DEIB Meeting, Virtual	DEI Co-VP
11	7p, Great Decisions	

AAUW-Virginia Board Calendar

January 2026

5	7p, Branch Leader Chat	President
8	6p, AAUW-VA board mtg – virtual	President
8	Board Report of slate of nominees	Nominating Comm
8	Board Report of any bylaws or resolutions proposals	Bylaws & Res.
8	State board approves State named honorees	AAUW-Funds Chair
13	3p, Branch Leader Chat	President
14	VA General Assembly session begins	Public Policy VP
15	Deadline for <i>Vision</i> articles – Winter	<i>Vision</i> Copy Editor
15	6p, Virtual Public Policy Meeting	Public Policy VP
20	Email to Branch Presidents requesting branch named honorees	AAUW Funds Chair
31	2p, Northwest District Mtg, University of Mary Washington	District Rep

February

4	Pre-Lobby Day Event	Public Policy VP
5	State Lobby Day	Public Policy VP
15	<i>Vision</i> distributed	Communications VP
15	Additional nominees for state officers can be submitted until 3/15, 30 days after <i>Vision</i> is distributed.	Nominating Comm.
15	Conference reports due for AAUW-VA Conference book	Conference Chairs
15	Deadline to submit ads for AAUW-VA Conference	Conference Chairs
17	3p, Branch Leader Chat	President
19	7p, DEIB Meeting, Virtual	DEI Co-VP
20	Deadline for branch named honorees	AAUW Funds Chair
23	7p, Branch Leader Chat	President
28	SE District Meeting, Southside	SE District Rep.

March

TBD	Deadline for “early bird” registration for AAUW-VA Conf.	Conference Chairs
7	AAUW-VA Lobby Day (Virtual)	Public Policy VP
8	International Women’s Day	Public Policy VP
TBD	Deadline for late registration for AAUW-VA Conf.	Conference Chairs
15	Deadline for additional nominees for state officers	Nominating Comm.
15	Deadline to reserve hotel room @ special rate for Conference	Voting/Elections Ch.

AAUW-Virginia Board Calendar

16	General Assembly ends (scheduled)	Public Policy VP
23	7p, Branch Leader Chat	President
25	All Women's Equal Pay Day	Public Policy VP
30	Deadline for members to verify email address in Community Hub	Voting/Elections Ch.
31	3p, Branch Leader Chat	President

April

7	Asian American, Native HI, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Equal Pay Day	Public Policy VP
15	Members by this date are eligible to vote in AAUW-VA election	Voting/Elections Ch.
17	1p, AAUW-VA Board Meeting	President
17	AAUW-VA State Conference, optional day (Glen Allen)	Conference Co-Chairs
18	AAUW-VA State Conference (Glen Allen)	Conference Co-Chair

May

2	3p, (Virtual) Annual Business Meeting	President
4	Email ballots to members for voting until May 20	Voting/Elections Ch.
6	Mom's Equal Pay Day	Public Policy VP
7	7p, DEIB Meeting, Virtual	DEI Co-VP
12	Send voting reminder to members via email	Voting/Elections Ch.
15	Deadline for <i>Vision</i> articles – Summer	<i>Vision</i> Copy Editor
20	Online voting for AAUW-VA officers closes at 11:45 p.m.	Voting/Elections Ch.
21	6p, Virtual Public Policy Meeting	Public Policy VP
22	AAUW-VA voting results reported to recording secretary	Voting/Elections Ch.
23	Voting results reported to the board	Recording Secretary
27	7p, Branch Leader Chat	President

June

1	3p, Branch Leader Chat	President
15	<i>Vision</i> distributed	Communications VP
17	LGBTQIA+ Equal Pay Awareness Day	Public Policy VP
30	Last date for branch presidents to enter 2026-27 officers in Hub	President
30	Reports/receipts for mini-grant projects due to AAUW-VA VP, Finance	College/Univ Reps

Branch Presidents and Websites

Northern District

CO-REPRESENTATIVES:

Sandy Lawrence

Branch: Springfield-Annandale

Sharon Zackula

Branch: Falls Church Area

Alexandria (Anne Simpson & Jyothi Sunkari, Co-Presidents)

Arlington (Theresa Bratt & Candace Lilyquist, Co-Presidents)

Falls Church Area (Anne Baxter & Mary Youman, Co-Presidents)

Greater Manassas (Hannah Senft, President)

McLean Area (Christina Hamilton & Cheryl Williams, Co-Presidents)

Mt. Vernon (Elaine Kolish & Patsy Quick, Co-Presidents)

Reston-Herndon Area (Janine Greenwood, President)

Springfield/Annandale (Cathleen Boivin & Ann Sauberman, Co-Presidents)

Vienna Area (Kate MacLeod & Gail Rosner, Co-Presidents)

Woodbridge (Irene Cromer, President)

Northwest District

REPRESENTATIVE:

Mary Anne Graham

Branch: McLean Area & Winchester

Greater Richmond (Carol Stephens, President)

Winchester (Teresa Thome, President)

Fredericksburg Area (Janet Hedrick, President)

Southeast District

REPRESENTATIVE:

Joan Jenkins

Branch: Hampton

Hampton (Carolyn Stewart, President)

Newport News (Candice Byrd, President)

Portsmouth (Phyllis Shannon, President)

Virginia Beach (Sally Daniel, President)

Southwest District

REPRESENTATIVE:

Susan McSlarrow

Branch: Smith Mountain

Lynchburg (Anitra Webster, President)

Roanoke Valley (Mary R. Davis, President)

Smith Mountain (Betsy DeWeese, President)

Wytheville (Anita Aymer, President)

AAUW-VA Board Roster

President

Lane Stone

Alexandria, VA

Branch: Alexandria

Co-VPs Program

Susan Burk

Annandale, VA

Branch: Springfield-Annandale

Leslie Tourigny

Alexandria, VA

Branch: Alexandria & Virginia Beach

VP Membership

Laura Greenfield

Newport News, VA

Branch: Hampton

VP Finance

Virginia Kress

Alexandria, VA

Branch: Alexandria

VP Public Policy

Diane Schrier

Alexandria, VA

Branch: Alexandria

VP Communications

Tess Evans

Independence, MO

Branch: Greater Richmond

VP Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Meg Tuccillo

Arlington, VA

Branch: Arlington

Recording Secretary

Paula Lichiello

Forest, VA

Branch: Lynchburg

AAUW Funds Chair

Ann Johnson

Roanoke, VA

Branch: Smith Mountain

College/University Chairs

Marsha Melkonian

Moneta, VA

Branch: Smith Mountain

Barbara Woodlee

Virginia Beach, VA

Branch: Virginia Beach

Bylaws/Resolutions Chair

Suzanne Rothwell

Vienna, VA

Branch: Vienna Area & Reston-Herndon

Webmaster/Vision Layout Editor

Patsy Quick

Alexandria, VA

Branch: Mt. Vernon

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Northern District

Sharon Zackula

McLean, VA

Branch: Falls Church

Sandy Lawrence

Springfield, VA

Branch: Springfield-Annandale

Northwest District

Mary Anne Graham

Round Hill, VA

Branch: McLean & Winchester

Southeast District

Joan Jenkins

Newport News, VA

Branch: Hampton

Southwest District

Susan McSlarrow

Moneta, VA

Branch: Smith Mountain

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:

AAUW Records Office
1310 L. St. NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
connect@aauw.org

