



WORDS TO THE *WISE*²

WOMEN IN SEARCH OF EDUCATION AND EQUITY

Volume 30, Issue 3

November, 2025



Winchester (VA) Branch

MISSION

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Winchester, Virginia, Branch
<http://winchester-va.aauw.net/>

PRESIDENT

TESS THOME (757-870-8176)
(thometess@gmail.com)

VICE PRESIDENT - PROGRAM

REBECCA BRONSON (540-931-1467)
(rbronson123@gmail.com)

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

REBECCA EBERT (540-532-1250)
(rebert2@verizon.net)

VICE PRESIDENT - MEMBERSHIP

LAURIE GAULKE (908-591-7595)
(laurie.mg96@gmail.com)

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE CHAIR

JANE PARRISH (540-667-8580)
(jmparp@comcast.net)

RECORDING SECRETARY

JULIE SAYRE (843-271-4771)
(jbsayre@mft@gmail.com)

FINANCE / AAUW FUNDS

MARSHA GOCHENOUR (540-533-8069)
(mgochen@yahoo.com)

EDUCATION / LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

ROSEMARY GREEN (540-539-2674)
(rglibrarian50@gmail.com)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION (DE&I)

REBECCA BRONSON (540-931-1467)
(rbronson123@gmail.com)

WORDS TO THE WISE² EDITOR

MARTHA PRUSCH (540-729-1135)
(bmecs@comcast.net)

FACEBOOK MANAGER

PAT KADEL (717-314-4470)
(patriciakadel52@gmail.com)

NORTHWEST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

MARY ANNE GRAHAM (540-338-7738)
(maryannegraham@comcast.com)

November Meeting

*Mildred Lee Grove and her
Legacy, the Stone House
Foundation*

Linda Simmons, Speaker

Saturday

November 8, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Benham Room

Handley Regional Library
100 West Piccadilly Street

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, we'll welcome Winchester Branch member **Linda Simmons** as she presents *Mildred Lee Grove and her Legacy, the Stone House Foundation*. Linda's aunt, **Mildred Lee Grove** was a lifetime member of AAUW and established the Stone House Foundation to preserve historic properties in and around Stephens City. The Orrick Chapel, where we met in September, is one of the properties owned and managed by the Stone House Foundation.

Board Meeting

Wednesday November 19, 2025

Zoom 6 p.m.

All members are invited to attend.
(Contact Marsha Gochenour for Zoom details.)

December Meeting

*Current Public Health
Code of Ethics*

Dr. Cee Ann Davis, Speaker

Saturday

December 13, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Benham Room

Handley Regional Library
100 West Piccadilly Street

In December, we welcome another long-time branch member, **Dr. Cee Ann Davis**, who will present on the current public health code of ethics. Dr. Davis is currently an American Public Health Association Ethics Section Governing Councilor and Policy Committee Chair. She received the national 2024 American Public Health Association Award (APHA) for Outstanding Practice in Public Health Ethics.

**November 4, 2025, is
Election Day!**

*Please exercise your hard
won right to vote and make
your voice heard on the
upcoming Election Day!*



I VOTED.



President's Message

Tess Thome

We have had some wonderful programs and activities already this program year. Becki Bronson and Becky Ebert have put together interesting and diverse activities this year. The October Winchester Co-op Market Program was an exciting opportunity to participate in the planning and growth stage of a very different community food supply option. We helped to work a table downtown to register voters with the Shenandoah University Center for Civic Engagement. We also had many members participate in the All-District Program: One Person, One Vote: The National Popular Vote vs. The Electoral College (Via Zoom) October 14th. In just a few days, we will have our upcoming program on Mildred Lee Grove and her legacy, the Stone House Foundation, November 8th from 10 a.m. – Noon at the Handley Library, Benham Room.

As the joint host of the State Conference with Fredericksburg Branch and the Richmond Branch we have many opportunities to serve. Mary Anne Graham is our District Representative, so she plays a very important role in coordinating with the State Committee and Conference Committee. Please find her contact information listed with the current AAUW Board Members on page one if you need to contact her about the conference. For more information about the conference see page 4.

Save the DATE for the State AAUW conference!

On the Front Lines: Defending Education and Equity for Women and Girls

Glen Allen, April 18th, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. There are some optional activities on April 17th in the afternoon and evening.

I look forward to getting to know our new members better. Please come and welcome them to our Winchester Branch at our meetings and don't hesitate to reach out to me or another board member and see if we can find the perfect fit for your time and talent in our small but mighty AAUW Winchester VA branch.

See everyone on November 8th which is right around the corner!



Tess Thome
President
Winchester
AAUW

Treasurer's Report

Marsha Gochenour

As of September 24, 2025:

\$919.87	Checking
266.65	Woman of the Year
0.00	AAUW Funds
282.74	NCCWSL
225.00	Dr. Amy @ SU
1,155.00	Orndoff @ SU
4,119.27	Froehlich Memorial Scholarship (local)
4,000.00	CD, 1-year
<u>2,213.21</u>	General Savings
\$13,181.74	Total

No changes in fund accounts in October.

CLEO

(Classy Ladies Eating Out)

Marsha Gochenour

Monday
December 1, 2025
6:00 p.m.



Red Bowl Sushi and Hibachi Grill
420 Gateway Drive #9

Call Marsha (533-8069) if you plan to attend the dinner so she will have a head count.

Evening Book Group

Marsha Gochenour

Monday
November 17, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Zoom



Making Time: Lillian Moller Gilbreth, A Life Beyond "Cheaper by the Dozen"

Author: Jane Lancaster

Lillian Moller Galbraith's life story as mother to twelve, wife to an experimental engineer husband, adviser on women's issues to five U.S. presidents, and winner of the Hoover Medal for engineers is told in this account of a working mother who was one of the nation's most successful women.

No December 2025 Book Group

Now that the days are shorter and it is dark at dinnertime we will be holding our Book Group meetings via Zoom. Invitation information will be sent the morning of the meeting.

We will be selecting our 2026 books at the November Zoom meeting. Send your suggestions to Marsha Gochenour who will compile summaries and send them out for choosing in early November.

Mini-Grant Awarded

Tess Thome

AAUW-VA's mini-grant program continued to support branch projects that align with our public policy priorities throughout the Commonwealth. The State Board approved \$3,000 for 2025-2026 mini-grants, and emails were sent to all branches, a session was held at the annual conference in Alexandria to provide information for applying online.

Applications were due by September 30, 2025. The Mini-Grant Committee assessed the eight (8) applications based on:

- Innovation/creativity
- Community outreach
- Support of AAUW priorities
- Recruitment value
- Collaboration with others
- Financial need
- Value of outcomes

All branches who applied were approved, and awarded a mini-grant as requested. (A small increase was requested to cover all requests)

- Vienna – DEIB Panel Discussion
- Springfield Annandale – Scholarships based on inclusion projects
- Winchester – Signage for recruitment
- Fredericksburg – Human Trafficking Awareness
- Falls Church – Healing the Gender Divide
- Falls Church – Postcards (7500)
- Virginia Beach – Dessert and Discourse
- Lynchburg – Leadership supplies

We must complete our project by June 30, 2026, provide a short report at the completion of our activity, and submit all receipts for reimbursement by July 15, 2026. We thank all those who were involved in getting the mini-grant for our Winchester Branch. We are in the process of ordering the “recruitment” materials and will be happy to share them with everyone once they arrive.

Diversity Equity Inclusion Belonging Accessibility

Rebecca Bronson

The environment remains challenging, but the work continues. I attended the first national zoom meeting of the new programming year. The meeting was a get-to-know one another where ideas were shared for branches to adopt or adapt to their own needs. Popular ideas included establishing DEI book clubs and book lists at the branch and state levels; ways to collaborate with other branches and states to share resources and ideas for engaging members and advancing the work; and reaching out to the national office to discuss ways to further support the work happening at the state and local levels.



International Day of Tolerance November 16, 2025

Friends, I recently learned of The International Day for Tolerance (created by The United Nations UNESCO) celebrated on Nov 16th. This may be an opportunity to help spread respect for each other in these challenging times. Here is some background, in the link below, on the day for your consideration.

While googling this info, I also discovered World Kindness Day is celebrated on Nov 13th!!! Perhaps even just a message to your Branch folks to be extra alert that day for opportunities to show kindness to others in these challenging times could make someone's day a little better!!!!

Thanks
Meg Tuccillo
AAUW Virginia DEIB VP

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/dm3wbhjjwvjtvqodncgl/tolerance.url?rlkey=02ewbgvip77uu30pwtzvkcuij&st=h6ta4lvv&dl=0>

Save The Date! You Can Make Your Hotel Reservation Now!



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

Join us for afternoon tours and evening entertainment on Friday, April 17, 2026. Then on April 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 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 now make reservations at the Drury Plaza Hotel by visiting the following link: <https://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10150185> or by calling 1-800-325-0720 and referencing the group number, 10150185. (The default dates may show as April 16-April 20; just adjust the dates for your preference.)

To assure availability at the group rate, reserve your room as soon as possible. Reservations made after Sunday, March 15, 2026, will be subject to prevailing rates and availability. Hotel amenities include free parking and complimentary wi-fi throughout the hotel. Hotel guests also receive a complimentary hot breakfast and complimentary evening drinks and snacks. On-site facilities include a business center, fitness center, and pool.

Stay tuned for further details.

Any questions? Email Mary Anne Graham, Northwest District Representative, at maryannegraham@comcast.net.

Branch Meeting October 11, 2025

Bertha Thomas of the Winchester Co-Op Market introduced our membership to this newly formed co-op in Winchester. Still in the planning phases, the food co-op hopes to provide our community with additional food options, including locally sourced and produced items. Memberships are available, and members become owners of the co-op, which is built on a national model similar to electric utility co-ops. For more info on the co-op, please visit their [website](#).



Bertha Thomas informs our branch about the Winchester CO-OP MARKET



CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 8 | November Meeting, <i>Mildred Lee Grove and her Legacy</i> , Benham Room, Handley Library, 10:00 a.m. |
| November 4 | Election Day VOTE!!! |
| November 17 | Book Group, Zoom, 6 p.m., <i>Making Time: Lillian Moller Gilbreth</i> |
| November 19 | Board Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m. |
| November 20 | Deadline for December/January issue of <i>Words to the WISE²</i> |
| December 1 | CLEO, Red Bowl Sushi and Hibachi Grill, 6 p.m. |

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540-450-3223
suzan@suzanherskowitz.com
www.suzanherskowitz.com

2400 Valley Avenue
Suite 16
Winchester, VA 22601