

# SANDSCRIPT



MAKING WAVES TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS IN VIRGINIA BEACH

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## May Branch Meeting (VIRTUAL)

May 19, 2021

6:30 -7:00 pm casual conversations

7:00 p.m. Meeting

CLICK THIS LINK TO  
JOIN

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86099516295?pwd=RTFnZHRPQmFZWlpwYWgvaRaQUJUUT09>

by phone:

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 860 9951 6295

Passcode: 210738

## Offshore Wind Pilot Project

Our usual May meeting is generally wrapped around our banquet, at which we greet the women who have been awarded our scholarship(s) for the next year as well as hearing who has stepped up to lead our branch for the following year. Although we will hear about these extraordinary women, we decided that we would also end our year with a talk about the Offshore Wind Pilot Project that Dominion is pursuing. This is such an important topic, Dominion is “sending” two stellar speakers to our meeting. Please join us welcoming:

- **John Larson**, Director of Public Policy & Economic Development
- **Tonya Denise Byrd**, Manager, Community Engagement Policy  
(see their full biographies [here](#))

### The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project (CVOW)

CVOW is the largest project of its kind in the country. It will be located within a 112,800-acre lease area, 27 miles off the coast of Virginia Beach, and will build on the success of the pilot project installed and energized last year. This program will give us some highlights of Dominion’s efforts to solicit community input and offer some opportunities for us to get involved.

- CVOW will generate enough clean, sustainable energy to power up to 660,000 homes at peak and avoid as much as five million tons of carbon dioxide annually once constructed in 2026. That is the equivalent of removing one million non-electric cars from the road.
- CVOW is a critical resource for meeting the Commonwealth’s objective of carbon-free energy by 2045 and is instrumental in supporting Dominion Energy’s goal of net zero carbon and methane emissions by 2050.
- CVOW can attract companies seeking an East Coast hub for their operations, creating hundreds of jobs, hundreds of millions of dollars in economic output and millions of dollars in tax revenue for the state and localities.



*Providing women and girls waves of support in Virginia Beach*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this message finds everyone in good health. With the vaccine becoming more widely available, I'm looking forward to hearing from the national office that by fall, we can meet in person again. In the meantime, please join us for our branch meeting via Zoom.

If you haven't already, take a few minutes to vote and make your voice heard in our national election. Neola has taken the time to write a counter argument to the national opinion that the AAUW bylaws should be changed to remove the degree requirement for membership. Tammie forwarded Neola's memo to the branch members in early April. I encourage you to review both arguments and vote before the May 17, 2021, deadline.

Recently, while scrolling through Facebook, I came across the following story which was posted on the page of "A Mighty Girl." Their website is [www.amightygirl.com](http://www.amightygirl.com). This story made me smile—enjoy.

*Jeanette Olson*

Many people think of Queen Elizabeth II, who is celebrating her 95th birthday today, as a model of dignity and decorum but ace driver rarely comes to mind. It's easy to forget that, as a young woman, the then 18-year-old Princess Elizabeth joined the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service during World War II training as a mechanic and military truck driver. The Queen officially became Britain's longest reigning monarch in 2015. That same year, a story resurfaced that shows the grit, determination, and wicked sense of humor behind the prim and proper public face. It's the story of how in 1998 the Queen took Saudi Arabia's Abdullah bin Abdulaziz -- who was from a country that only ended their ban on women driving three years ago -- on the ride of his life.

Abdullah, then the crown prince, was visiting the Queen's Balmoral estate in Scotland. Former British ambassador Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles recounted the story this way: "The royal Land Rovers were drawn up in front of the castle. As instructed, the Crown Prince climbed into the front seat of the Land Rover, with his interpreter in the seat behind. To his surprise, the Queen climbed into the driving seat, turned the ignition and drove off."

"Women are not — yet — allowed to drive in Saudi Arabia, and Abdullah was not used to being driven by a woman, let alone a queen," Cowper-Coles continued. "His nervousness only increased as the queen, an Army driver in wartime, accelerated the Land Rover along the narrow Scottish estate roads, talking all the time. Through his interpreter, the Crown Prince implored the Queen to slow down and concentrate on the road ahead."

Cowper-Coles said the anecdote was verified by Abdullah, who later became Saudi Arabia's king and considered the drive truly terrifying; the ambassador called the story "too funny not to repeat." King Abdullah passed away six years ago and Saudi Arabia, until they lifted the driving ban in 2018, was the only country in the world that banned women from driving. However, the story of Queen Elizabeth's pointed "tour" of Balmoral stands as a reminder: The Queen is a woman of many talents and not one to suffer foolish stereotypes gladly.

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# Speaker Introductions

## **John Larson**

### **Director of Public Policy & Economic Development**

John Larson, who graduated from NCSU with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering, joined Dominion Energy in 1996.

During John's career at the company, he has held various leadership positions in business development, alternative energy technologies and construction. He is well versed in offshore wind through his experience in the development and early permitting activities for Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) Pilot Project.



Currently, a large part of his time is spent on Dominion Energy's Business to Business, Workforce Development and Community Outreach activity for as the Company moves forward implementing the requirements of the Virginia Clean Economy Act, including the 16,100 MW of solar, 5,200 MW of offshore wind and 2,700 MW of storage, with the objective of maximizing opportunities for Virginia's vendors, subcontractors, and suppliers.

## **Tonya Denise Byrd**

### **Manager, Community Engagement Policy**

A native of Hampton, VA and graduate of Hampton High School, Tonya Byrd earned her bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, magna cum laude, from Howard University in 1998. While at Howard, she became a member of both Tau Beta Pi-- The National Engineering Society -- and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.-- the first sorority founded for African American women. She obtained an M.B.A. from The George Washington University in 2000 concentrating in Management of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

During her 28 years with Dominion Energy, she worked as an Engineer and Sr. Nuclear Training Instructor at Surry Power Station, Supervisor, Customer Account Management in Norfolk, and Supervisor, Electrical Distribution Design overseeing design teams in both the Hampton and Williamsburg offices. No matter whether at work, or in her spare time, Tonya has a strong focus on STEM education, volunteerism & community engagement, and diversity & inclusion.



In 2008, Tonya was selected as a fellow to attend the prestigious World Nuclear University Summer Institute held that year at the University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Each year, the Summer Institute selects 100 nuclear professionals from across the world between the ages of 27 and 37 who demonstrate strong leadership potential. Four years later in 2012, she was featured in the Black Engineering Magazine in an article titled, "Notable Blacks in Energy: They've Got the Power" by Frank McCoy. Tonya was selected by Dominion Energy as the 2019 Benjamin J. Lambert III Volunteer of the Year – Community Vitality, and more recently in 2020, she served as Chair of Dominion Energy's African American Resource Group (AARG) – Corporate Chapter and Honorary Co-Chair of the 3rd Annual United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Hampton Roads Mayors' Masked Ball. Tonya serves on the board of the Cheryl Jackson Tyler Foundation, Inc., the UNCF Richmond's Southern Virginia Leadership Council, and is an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Lambda Omega Chapter in Newport News, VA where she serves on the HBCU for Life committee. She is also active with the American Association of Blacks in Energy – Virginia Chapter, the Howard University Alumni Association – Hampton Roads Chapter, and Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Chesapeake Chapter.

## Members Matter

Are you ready to get back to normal? Do we even know what “normal” is anymore or what it will mean in the next few months? Well, something we can all count on will be our fellowship through AAUW. Whether it’s in person, by phone, or via Zoom, we have sisters who share our experiences.

Are you ready to participate in person again? Hopefully when fall arrives, we will be back to greeting each other in person for our monthly meetings and other activities. What’s your favorite AAUW activity? Our branch meetings with interesting and timely speakers? Getting out into the community involving voter registration at local colleges, Pennies for Prescriptions providing prescriptions for the uninsured through a local health clinic, or supporting REACH by giving books to at risk children? Perhaps it’s the social groups like movie sisters and book clubs, where we get together with friends to have fun and share a common experience. Even our fundraising events like Little Theater of Virginia Beach and Paint N’ Sip are fun. We’ve continued some of these activities over Zoom, but soon we will be in person again.

Now is the time to renew your support for AAUW for July 2021-June 2022. You can renew easily online by responding to the email from Tammie Rice, our finance officer, sent in March. Tammie will be sending this out again as a reminder so watch your in box. You can also mail your check to Tammie at 1010 Barnacle Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Please make your check payable to AAUW Virginia Beach and note “Membership 2021-2022” in the memo line. Total dues are \$91 which includes national dues of \$62, state of \$15, and branch of \$14. Remember that \$56 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

We currently have 45 members including two life members, who renew automatically. We have 17 or 38% of our total membership who have already renewed. Please renew now so we can check you off our call list in July. We would love to have everyone renewed by the end of June.

If you have any questions, please call or email us. We would be happy to hear from you. You can find our contact info on the Officers List at end of the newsletter.

Have a great summer! Stay safe and we will see you in September!

Membership VP’s: Kathleen Stasulis and Sally Pattison-Cisna.

## Happy Summer Birthdays!

<b>Theresa Nock</b>	<b>June 16</b>
<b>Linda Todd</b>	<b>July 2</b>
<b>Alice Forest</b>	<b>July 14</b>
<b>Lorrie Ames</b>	<b>July 15</b>
<b>Tammie Mullins-Rice</b>	<b>July 22</b>
<b>Sally Daniel</b>	<b>August 11</b>
<b>Marissa Rice</b>	<b>August 21</b>
<b>Mary Rau</b>	<b>August 26</b>
<b>Leslie Tourigny</b>	<b>August 30</b>



## April Branch Meeting Follow-up

The April branch meeting featuring Karen Forget, the Executive Director of Lynnhaven River NOW as our speaker, was really interesting, informative and current. I live in a Pearl Home, am a member of a church which is one of the Pearl Faith Communities and reside at Westminster-Canterbury which is one of the Pearl Businesses. Listening to Karen, I was reminded of what I do to protect our environment.

You and I may not be able to do big things, but a lot of small things add up to be larger things. All of us can work together to make this a better world and to save it for our children. Anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "We have nowhere else to go. . .this is all we have."

At the request of another group I belong to, I made up this short list of common things we can do to help our planet. Some things I do to help our planet:

1. Switch from bottled water to a reusable water bottle that I refill with tap water.
2. Buy local products whenever possible to cut down on CO2 emissions. Grow my vegetables when possible.
3. Consistently use reusable grocery bags (not possible during the pandemic).
4. Drive fewer miles, consciously eliminating unnecessary trips. Use public transportation, share a ride, or bike.
5. Consistently REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE. This list frequently grows. The last I saw was REFUSE, REDUCE, REUSE, ROT, REPURPOSE, RECYCLE. (REFUSE = do I need this or do I want it?) (ROT = compost food scraps & garden trimmings).
6. Dispose of hazardous waste properly (batteries, paint, unused or expired prescriptions and OTC medications).
7. Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.
8. Cut down on waste; 30% of food in the US goes to the trash dump and emits methane as it rots. Food in my refrigerator that is past its prime for salads is still good for soups. I store these in the freezer until I make soup.
9. Quit the plastic habit. This is virtually impossible, but we can help. Most empty water bottles (#1) end up in oceans, where now the weight of plastic equals the weight of sea animals.
10. Packaging of items we buy adds a lot to waste. I pay attention to extra wrapping and bags and decline, if possible.

This list is by no means exhaustive, and I'd like to hear what you add to it.

Neola Waller

## Upcoming

May 19, 2021 7:00 Branch Meeting

May 26, 2021 6:30 Board Meeting

## April's Branch Meeting



## Important Dates for Virginia Democratic & Republican Primaries (June 8, 2021)



<b>Ongoing</b> (See 5/28 deadline below)	<a href="#">Register to vote</a>
<b>Ongoing</b>	<a href="#">Check and, if necessary, update registration information</a>
<b>Ongoing</b> (see deadline below)	<a href="#">Apply to vote absentee by mail</a>
<b>April 24</b>	<a href="#">Early in-person voting for Democratic &amp; Republican Primaries begins</a>
<b>May 17</b>	Deadline to <a href="#">register to vote</a> our <a href="#">update registration</a> (in person or receipt by mail) for Democratic & Republican Primaries
<b>May 28, 5 p.m.</b>	Deadline to <a href="#">apply to request an absentee ballot</a> for Democratic & Republican primaries
<b>June 5, 5 p.m.</b>	Deadline for early in-person voting at <a href="#">your local registrar</a> for Democratic & Republican primaries
<b>June 8</b>	<b>Democratic &amp; Republican Primaries</b> <a href="#">Election Day Voting at assigned polling places</a> ( <b>Democratic:</b> Governor, Lt Governor, Attorney General, VA House) ( <b>Republican:</b> VA House of Delegate local offices)

### Commonwealth of Virginia Democratic & Republican Primaries (June 8, 2021)

[Candidates for Governor](#)

[Candidates for Lt. Governor](#)

[Candidates for Attorney General](#)

[Candidates for Virginia House of Delegates](#)

# AAUW Virginia Beach

## July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

POSITIONS ELECTED	OFFICERS	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
PRESIDENT One Year	Jeanette Olson	<a href="mailto:olsonej@verizon.net">olsonej@verizon.net</a>	757.427.5900
PRESIDENT ELECT One Year then to Presidency	<i>TBD</i>	-	
PROGRAM Vice President Two Years, elected in even years	Sally Daniel	<a href="mailto:swdaniel01@gmail.com">swdaniel01@gmail.com</a>	757.495.4349
MEMBERSHIP Vice Presidents Two Years, elected in odd years	Sally Pattison-Cisna	<a href="mailto:pattisonsj@gmail.com">pattisonsj@gmail.com</a>	H: 757.340.2829 C: 757.378.8527
	Kathleen Stauslis	<a href="mailto:stauslisss@hotmail.com">stauslisss@hotmail.com</a>	H: 757-486-5485 C: 757-576-5485
FINANCE OFFICER Two Years, elected in odd years	Tammie Rice	<a href="mailto:tammieaauw@gmail.com">tammieaauw@gmail.com</a>	757-630-7097
RECORDING SECRETARIES Two Years, elected in even years			
Branch Secretary			
Board Secretary			
<b>POSITIONS APPOINTED: 2019-2020</b>			
AAUW Funds Chair One Year			
LTVB	Carole Szetela	<a href="mailto:karolka@verizon.net">karolka@verizon.net</a>	H: 757-631-1805 C: 757-681-4191
AutoBell Coupons	Sally Pattison-Cisna	<a href="mailto:pattisonsj@gmail.com">pattisonsj@gmail.com</a>	757.340.2829
Bylaws Chair One Year	Neola Waller	<a href="mailto:wallerwn1@gmail.com">wallerwn1@gmail.com</a>	757-217-2356
College/University Chair One Year	<i>TBD</i>	-	
Community Outreach Coordinator(s) One Year			
Pennies for Prescriptions	Toni Lohman	<a href="mailto:tlohman@verizon.net">tlohman@verizon.net</a>	H: 757-463-9135
REACH	Sally Pattison-Cisna	<a href="mailto:pattisonsj@gmail.com">pattisonsj@gmail.com</a>	H: 757.340.2829
VBCPS Food Beach Bags for At Risk Children	<i>TBD</i>	-	
VBCPS SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR HOMELESS	Lynn Zoll	<a href="mailto:lzollpsy@gmail.com">lzollpsy@gmail.com</a>	W: 757.636.1229
	Sally Pattison-Cisna	<a href="mailto:pattisonsj@gmail.com">pattisonsj@gmail.com</a>	H: 757.340.2829
Historian	Linda Todd	<a href="mailto:readertodd@cox.net">readertodd@cox.net</a>	757-467-1119
Hospitality Chairs One Year			
Branch Hospitality	Fran Adams	<a href="mailto:Bikalot@Verizon.net">Bikalot@Verizon.net</a>	757-467-2775
Holiday Luncheon	Tammie Rice	<a href="mailto:tammieaauw@gmail.com">tammieaauw@gmail.com</a>	757-630-7097
May Luncheon	Tammie Rice	<a href="mailto:tammieaauw@gmail.com">tammieaauw@gmail.com</a>	757-630-7097
Linda Todd Scholarship Chair One Year	Linda Love	<a href="mailto:loveshacklj@hotmail.com">loveshacklj@hotmail.com</a>	757.575.4555
Newsletter Editor One year	Patricia Smith	<a href="mailto:fislarsmith@hotmail.com">fislarsmith@hotmail.com</a>	(H)757-646-3946
Public Policy Co-Chairs One year	Barbara Woodlee	<a href="mailto:barbarawoodlee@gmail.com">barbarawoodlee@gmail.com</a>	207.649.9711
Publicity/Communications Chairs One Year			
Outside Sources	Fran Adams	<a href="mailto:Bikalot@Verizon.net">Bikalot@Verizon.net</a>	757-467-2775
Website	Tammie Rice	<a href="mailto:tammieaauw@gmail.com">tammieaauw@gmail.com</a>	757-630-7097
Facebook			
Diversity and Inclusion Representative	Maria Kronenburg	<a href="mailto:makronstats@gmail.com">makronstats@gmail.com</a>	757-650-7112

Diversity Statement: *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, and socioeconomic status.*



*Providing women and girls waves of support in Virginia Beach*