

The Sandscript

The Newsletter for the Virginia Beach Branch
the American Association of University Women

February 2025

Here are some things to consider:

Are women wise enough to make decisions about their own bodies?

Are women smart and strong enough to do what men have traditionally done (i.e. play sports, be in the military, hold an elected office, etc. etc.?)

Are women worthy enough to be full citizens—i.e. be a part of the Constitution?

Are women compassionate enough to care about others—who may look or think differently than they do?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you might be a good candidate for an active member of The American Association of University Women! If you know anyone who would answer “yes” to these questions, invite them to join you at one of our meetings. Many of us are feeling helpless and hopeless right now—working with like-minded folks on issues that are important is a great way to feel better and to “do good!”

Co-Presidential Ponderings

DEI is being dismantled by many businesses and institutions across the country. The American Civil Liberties Union has expressed concerns that these orders represent a deliberate attempt to undo progress on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, creating new barriers to opportunity. AAUW remains committed to DEI principles and practices. As such, let’s continue to acknowledge

that February is Black History Month and March is Women's History Month. If you have friends who are looking for a way to make a positive impact on society, suggest that they join AAUW. Share our mission. Let them know that we provide avenues to act and learn that can make a real difference in the lives of women and girls. We are working for positive change, building up and not tearing down.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting,
Jeanette Olson and Maria Kronenburg

Come to our next meeting!

New Time: 10:00 am - Noon

New Place: WHRO, 5200 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk VA



Our next meeting will be in conjunction with the Southeast District Spring Meeting. We'll learn about some new AAUW initiatives and will hear a presentation from Tamara Allen, Program Director of UpVote. She'll remind us that we need to keep being engaged in the political system. We have invited guests from ODU's WIN program (more information about that later). Let's have a crowd there!

Keep Up-To-Date with National AAUW Actions

If you do not regularly receive emails from National AAUW, please use this link to get put on the list! : [the email re-subscribe link](#). AAUW communicates with members about new initiatives through these emails. You don't want to miss anything!

AAUW, VB Plays Well With Others!

Our Branch is a good community member

It took a team of 7 less than two hours to roll 6500 pennies and other coins bringing the total to \$104. This will be given to PIN Ministries, which helps people buy prescriptions they need but cannot afford. Special thanks to Jacqui Dessino, Jim and Barbara Woodlee, and Toni Lohman. Terry DeRoche and Kathy McNamara, who first collected pennies for the project back in 2003, came to help! Keep those Pennies coming (we collect your spare change/dollars at each meeting) and let's make this an annual event: delicious food, interesting friends and a great way to keep the project going!



Chris Medlin delivers the last of the almost 200 books we collected for REACH (READING EMPOWERS ALL CHILDREN). REACH has provided books to children in shelters for years. Now they have their own free bookstore. Check it out at JANAF Shopping Center

On February 8th. AAUW members participated in the Women United at their annual Stone Soup activity. Eleven of our members and friends pitched in to make casseroles and bagged lunches for hungry people in Hampton Roads. Not only did we “do good,” we had fun, too!



The Women's Initiative Network at ODU

We just found out about this exciting program at ODU. The following description is taken from their website:

“At ODU WIN, we're dedicated to supporting female students to achieve their career goals. Our network of experienced mentors in healthcare, science, technology, the military, communication, and entrepreneurship provide invaluable guidance. They meet with their mentees on a regular basis, either in person or virtually, to map out their future and open doors.

Many of our mentees are first-generation college students and we're here to offer them a clear path to success. Our powerful community of female leaders provides a unique opportunity to elevate the career development of female undergraduate and graduate students at Old Dominion University. Be a part of the success of females of the next generation. Join us!”



This surely sounds like something AAUW can support. And, they have made it clear that they would love to have a connection with us! To that end, Maria and Sally attended their WONDERFUL event on February 2, featuring a networking event followed by a truly inspirational talk given by Col Nicole Malachowski (USAF Ret.). A fighter pilot, she was the first woman ever to fly with the Thunderbirds. The take-aways from this talk were

- Nobody wants to lead a scripted life
- Believe those who believe in you
- Always be trustworthy
- Honor the Wingman Contract

Col. Nicole Malachowski (USAF Ret.)

We have invited the WIN participants to our District meeting. Let us think of many ways we can collaborate with this program

Linda Todd Scholarship is Open!

We generally give 2 \$1000 scholarships. Spread the word!

Here are the guidelines (more information on our website)

1. Resident of Virginia Beach
2. At least 23 years of age or older
3. Be currently enrolled in an undergraduate program in Hampton Roads and have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours at an accredited two- or four- year institution (this does not include accredited career colleges)
4. Have returned to school after a lapse of time
5. Have a G.P.A. of 2.75 or greater.

SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTIONS—READ CAREFULLY

1. **All information submitted online or via the application form must be typed or printed.**
2. **The following information must be included:**
 - ***Latest official transcript** that includes **all** grades from college/university
 - ***Two letters of recommendation:**

One from a teacher; **One** from one of the following: *Counselor, employer, or clergy*

***Personal evaluation-** Provide in one page or less, information concerning career goals and any special circumstances or information that the scholarship committee should consider. Include any extra curricular activities (i.e., student government, awards, publications, clubs, associations, or community service).

MAIL ALL INFORMATION TO LOCAL BRANCH CONTACT:

AAUW Virginia Beach Scholarship Committee
1152 Treefern Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Materials (including transcript & recommendations must be postmarked on or before April 15, 2025

We Play Well With Each Other, Too:



Yea! We Found a Play We Can Go To
(and help support the scholarship fund!)

Play: ; Top Girls

Where: Little Theater of Norfolk, 801 Claremont Ave., Norfolk

When: March 2, at 2: 30pm

Cost: \$25 per ticket/ \$11 goes to the Scholarship Fund

Need/Want to carpool?. Please let Tammie know if you need a ride.

Here's details on the play:

London, 1982. Ambitious Marlene has just been promoted to Managing Director of the Top Girls employment agency. A celebratory dinner party is in order. Marlene's guest list includes historical women from different time periods, as well as a few fictional characters from famous works of art and literature. Back in the real world, what must Marlene do to succeed in her new role, and what does that mean for the people she has left behind? This groundbreaking classic of British theatre highlights the sacrifices women have made, and continue to make, to carve out a place for themselves. Hilarious, moving, and provocative, it masterfully explores what it takes to be a woman in a man's world, and the cost of getting to the top.

Zoom Movie Sisters

Thank you to everyone who came online in January to watch *The Substance* (2024). We had a great time enjoying the film and thought-provoking discussion afterwards about aging and beauty standards for women.

This month we are watching *Mudbound* (2017) on Saturday, February 15th at 3pm. The film depicts two World War II veterans – one white, one black – who return to rural Mississippi each to address racism and PTSD in his own way.

We hope you join us for a great film and what's sure to be an excellent discussion to follow.

Book Clubs

AAUW LITERARY LUNCHERS: March 11, *The Accidental President: Harry S. Truman and Four Months That Changed the World*. Contact Chris Medlin for details.

Adelante Book Club: March 31, 7pm at Ginny Werner's house, *Girls Like Us: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon and the Journey of a Generation* by Sheila Weller.

Empowering Women Through Innovative Programs

AAUW's award-winning programs are specifically designed to address these challenges. Through our initiative, we offer:

- **AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid** – Training for early and mid-career professionals on negotiating for fair salaries, better benefits, and advancement opportunities.
- **AAUW Start Smart** – AAUW Start Smart is specifically designed for college women entering the job market, teaching effective salary negotiation techniques to boost your confidence and negotiation skills.
- **AAUW Money Smart** – The AAUW Money Smart program is aimed at providing all women with the personal finance information they need to ensure their own financial security.

These programs have already impacted over 190,000 women across the U.S., empowering them with confidence, knowledge, and skills. Although we think of these initiatives as limited to younger, working women, there are those aimed at older women with topics in money management and social security. Check out the list of webinars...and tune into one. As an AAUW member, you have these resources:

AAUW Start Smart	Thurs. Feb. 20, 2025	3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Money Smart: Smart Finances	Wed. Feb. 26, 2025	12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid	Tues, March 11, 2025	5:00 - 6:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Start Smart	Wed., March 19, 2025	12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ET
What Every Woman Should Know About Social Security presented by SSA	Tues, March 25, 2025	1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Money Smart: Smart Future	Wed, March 26, 2025	3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Work Smart: Refresher	Wednesday, April 9, 2025	3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Start Smart	Tuesday, April 16, 2025	5:00 - 6:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Money Smart: Smart Foundations	Thursday, April 24, 2025	3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Work Smart: Develop Your Value Statement Deep Dive	Wednesday, May 13, 2025	3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET

AAUW Start Smart	Thursday, May 21, 2025	4:00 - 5:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Money Smart: Smart Finances	Tuesday, May 27, 2025	3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Work Smart: Refresher	Wednesday, June 11, 2025	4:00 - 5:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Start Smart	Wednesday, June 18, 2025	4:00 - 5:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Money Smart: Smart Future	Thursday, June 26, 2025	5:00 - 6:00 p.m. ET

And speaking of Resources for members, Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues!

Thank you to all of you who got their membership dues paid. Renewal dates coming up are: Dottie Holtz (Dec. 31); Emily Drefus (January 31); Kim Anderson (Feb.28); Alice Forrest and Pamela Katrancha (March 31); Caroline Campbell (April 30).

Dues are \$101 or \$18.81 for Student. You can renew online or through Tammie to renew online, click, [HERE](#) to enter and confirm a new password and access your Personal Snapshot. Click forgot password if you have never done this before.

In your Personal Snapshot, click the RENEW button at the bottom of the screen to update your profile and renew your AAUW NATIONAL, BRANCH and STATE memberships!

If you want Tammie to process your renewal, mail a check (payable to AAUW Virginia Beach) to 1010 Barnacle Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR "FEBRUARY BABIES"!

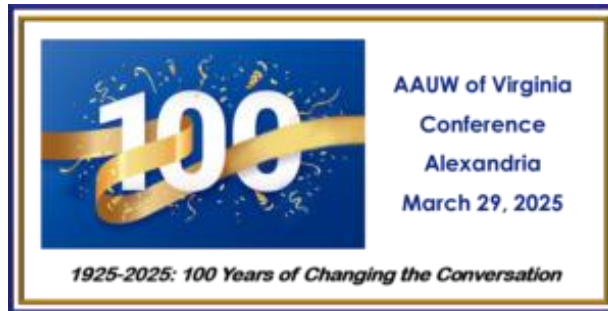
We're glad you were born!

Jacque Dessino 1 st

Toni Lohman 13 th

Neola Waller 14 th

Martha Sorenson 22 nd



2025 STATE CONFERENCE

[Register online here now!](#)

Mail-in registration with payment by check is also available by completing pages 14-16 of the conference brochure.

[Brochure for Conference 2025 and 100th Anniversary Celebration](#)

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

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

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

Great news! It's not too early to reserve a room. Guest rooms will be available for March 28 & 29 for \$159 per night plus tax, including a full hot breakfast for up to 2 persons.

[Use this link](#) to reserve your room. Or you can call 1 (888) 236-2427; use code *AAUW* to reserve a room. The rate is also available for 3 days before/after Mar 28 & 29 on a space available basis. First make a reservation for conference days & then for extra days email jrasolofson@sheratonalexandria.com.

The earlier you book a room the better because the 2025 Conference will take place on the eve of Cherry Blossom season and rooms in the hotel will book up early. Once our block is sold out, we might be able to add more rooms, but that will only be possible if the hotel is not already sold out. ***IMPORTANT NOTICE:** When making your hotel reservation, ignore any reference to a \$25 resort fee. You will NOT be charged this. The room rate is \$159 plus state and local taxes

Virginia Beach Branch Board

2024-2025

Officers, Elected Positions

Co-President	Jeanette Olson	olsonej@verizon.net	757-663-527
Co-President	Maria Kronenberg	makronstats@gmail.com	757-650-7112
VP--Membership			
VP—Programs	Carole Szetela	karolka@verizon.net	757-681-4191
Secretary	Kathleen Stasulis	stasultiss@hotmail.com	757-576-5485
Finance Officer	Tammie Mullins-Rice	tammieaauw@gmail.com	757-630-7097

Other Important Positions

AAUW Funds	Carole Szetela	karolka@verizon.net	757-681-4191
By-Laws Chair			
College-University Liaison	Barbara Woodlee	barbarawoodlee@gmail.com	207-649-9711
	Sally Daniel	swdaniel01@gmail.com	757-495-4349
REACH Liaison	Chris Medlin	Cmedlin8491	757-361-5826
Fund-raising			
DEI	Maria Kronenberg	makronstats@gmail.com	757-650-7112
Newsletter	Sally Daniel	Swdaniel01@gmail.com	757-495-4349
	Marissa Rice	Mr686@cornell.edu	757-636-9136
Social Media	Tammie Mullins-Rice	tammieaauw@gmail.com	757-630-7097
Hospitality	Sally Daniel	Swdaniel01@gmail.com	757-495-4349
Adalante Bookclub	Barbara Paige	bpaigebateman@gmail.com	757-481-0580
Literary Lunchers	Chris Medlin	Cmedlin8491	757-361-5826
Public Policy	Sandra Brandt	brandt@theelectivegroup.com	757-467-0422
	Barbara Woodlee	barbarawoodlee@gmail.com	207-649-9711
Scholarships	Linda Love	loveshackli@hotmail.com	757-575-4555
Movie Sisters (Zoom)	Marissa Rice	Mr868@cornell.edu	757-636-9136
Movie Sisters (in person)	Kathleen stasulis	stasultiss@hotmail.com	757-576-5485
Pennies for Prescriptions	Toni Lohman	tlohman@verizon.net	757-463-1135