

The Sandscript

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

May 2025

Join us for our End of the Year Potluck!

Sentara Virginia Beach Hospital—Education Building

May 17, 2025

We will celebrate our scholarship recipients, new members and another successful year as well as introducing our new board members.

Please use the Sign Up Genius at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A44AEAB2DA2FF2-56035103-mayspring> to let us know what you'll be bringing! This is always a delicious meeting!

Message from Co-Presidents

Our year will come to a close with our potluck on May 17, 2025. Please RSVP using the Sign Up Genius email that was sent out by Tammie Mullins-Rice.

As we enjoy some food and friendship, we can get to know this year's scholarship recipient. Let's give her a warm welcome to AAUW.

This is your reminder that AAUW national elections are underway, and voting closes on May 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. This is a resubscribe link if you are not receiving emails from AAUW:

https://secure.everyaction.com/p/8fvkDOF_gkmwgUN5RDy1tw2.

These two webinars were listed in the May Membership Matters email. If

you want to know more about AAUW's strategic direction, you may want to register for these.

Upcoming Strategic Plan Events

Join us for two key events as we unveil AAUW's new strategic direction:

Strategic Plan: Leadership Briefing | Tuesday, May 6 at 7 p.m. ET

Get a first look at our strategic priorities and how your leadership plays a key role. Register here.

Strategic Plan Launch | Tuesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. ET

Learn how members, branches, and states can align with our future vision.

Register here.

We look forward to seeing you on May 17, 2025.

Jeanette Olson

Maria Kronenburg

Co-Presidents

AAUW, VB, Gives Virginia Wesleyan Students a Lesson About the Pay Gap

On April 19, Barbara Woodlee and Sally Daniel represented AAUW, VB at Virginia Wesleyan. As in years past, they gave out popcorn to students, faculty and staff in amounts that represented the current pay gap. White males received a 20 oz cup of popcorn while Black males got 90% of that amount. White women received a 16 oz cup, representing their wages, which are 83% of what White males earn. Black women received their popcorn in 12 oz cups. There were no Hispanic/Latinas so nobody had to satisfy themselves with the smallest cups (10 oz., representing the largest pay gap—54%).

About 55 Virginia Wesleyans came by our table learning that pay gaps still exist. Several of them commented that giving out the different sized cups of popcorn was a great way to illustrate our message. One woman, receiving her popcorn and the information, said that this information made her sad. We reminded her that although it IS sad that these inequities still exist, we need to learn about them so we will be able to confront the forces that allow them to persist. Two women were just incensed that this was still a reality—they reported being angry (we suggested “righteous indignation”) although they said that they

would use that anger to continue our fight for equality. Men, also, seemed to understand our message. One of them said that they were embarrassed to take the big cup given to him. We assured him that we were not saying that he was the problem—but he could be part of the solution by asking candidates about their stance on equal pay.

All in all, we decided that we had made an impact on some of these popcorn eaters. Next year, you might want to volunteer for this event. You'll be glad you did!



Students learning about the pay gap.



Holding popcorn in sizes proportional
To their pay-gapped salaries



Barbara engaging with
Students

Did you participate in our D.E.I. Postcard Activity?

Last month, each member received 6 postcards in the mail addressed to 6 CEOs of companies who have either cancelled their DEI initiatives (Pepsi, Ford, Target) or have renewed their DEI initiatives (Apple, Ben & Jerry's, Costco). You were asked to write a note of either appreciation or a note of disappointment at their actions. I would like to know how many of you “completed your assignment” and mailed those postcards. Give Sally a message (by phone (757-495-4349) or email—swdaniel01@gmail.com) to let her know how many postcards were sent. If you still have your postcards ready to mail, you can bring them to our potluck or mail them to Sally. Thank you for your participation.

More postcards—these to encourage people to vote!

Can you believe that OUR branch wrote 300 postcards encouraging Norfolk registered but not recently active voters to vote in the primaries? That is a massive undertaking! Thank you, Barbara Woodlee and Kathleen Stasulis, for arranging and shepherding this effort.

Thank you, Sandra Brandt for using your amazing powers to get our stamps at a discount!
Good job, AAUW sisters!

Thank you, State AAUW for the Mini Grant

We had originally applied for a state Mini-Grant to engage Middle School Counselors as they help students make career choices. We wanted to give them more information about STEM careers. However, the counselors could not work this into their schedules. Luckily, we were able to amend our request to the State to cover the cost of public policy work. So far, we paid for the postcard stamps, the DEI postcards, and the popcorn give-away at VWU. We still have a little left so if someone has a great public policy activity, let us know!

Collaboration with the League of Women Voters and Delta Sigma Theta

Several of our members (Sally Daniel, Carole Szetela, Kathleen Stasulis, Maria Kronenburg and Sandra Brandt and Jackie Desseno) have met with these other two strong women's groups to see if there is some way we could work together—amplifying our voices—to promote our mutual policy priorities. In our first meeting, we got to know about each other's organizations and priorities. At our second meeting, on April 27, we discussed narrowing our efforts to two areas of interest: the upcoming state election and the crisis of maternal health in the US. Since the election will come quickly, we decided that this would be our first effort. Sandra is a great resource for us since she is involved in the political sphere. We would like to have a forum for the three state-wide positions which would focus on our joint policy issues (e.g. DEI, maternal health, voter engagement, education).

This would take planning over the summer so it is imperative that we get some volunteers NOW. Would you like to be a part of this?????

The second issue we could address is maternal health. A bill brought by State Senator Mamie Hart (Hampton) that would require health care workers to complete unconscious bias and cultural training to renew medical licenses. The bill was amended by Gov. Youngkin and Hart did not agree to go forward with the bill. It was suggested that we could have Sen. Hart and others to appear at a forum to discuss why the United States still has the highest rate of maternal death among its economic [peer nations](#). Is this a subject that interests you? Would you like to become involved? We anticipate that this forum would be late winter, early spring. **Contact Sally Daniel to get involved in either/both of these .**

The Election Results Are In: The 2025-26 Board Members Are:

President	Sally Daniel	Swdaniel01@gmail.com	757-495-4349
Vice President	Dana Henning	Danahennning0@gmail.com	401-662-6613
VP--Membership	Jeanette Olson	olsonej@verizon.net	757-663-8527
VP—Membership	Maria Kronenburg	makronstats@gmail.com	757-650-7112

These new officers will join these officers who still had time left on their term

Secretary	Kathleen Stasulis	stasulisss@hotmail.com	757-576-5485
Finance Officer	Tammie Mullins-Rice	tammieaauw@gmail.com	757-630-7097
VP for Programs	Carole Szetela	karolka@verizon.net	757-681-4191

But this is just the beginning.....we're looking to fill these spots, too! What can you do???

AAUW Funds	Carole Szetela	Do you know how we could raise money? A play? A paint party? Something fun?
By-Laws Chair		This won't take much time—just amend if we need to
College-University Liaison		We've got a good relationship with VWU and an "in" at ODU. Could you capitalize on this?
REACH Liaison	Chris Medlin	
Fund-raising		This goes along with AAUW
DEI	Maria Kronenberg	
Newsletter		You'll get to know what's going on first! This is a monthly newsletter that doesn't have to be fancy! If Sally can do it, anyone can!
Social Media	Tammie Mullins-Rice	
Hospitality		This is an easy one: just arrange for snacks for our meetings.
Adalante Bookclub	Barbara Paige	
Literary Lunchers	Jacque Dessino	
Public Policy	Sandra Brandt Barbara Woodlee	We need help here. Public Policy will be a big push this year. Are you up to help???
Scholarships	Linda Love	The Aladante book club will help.
Movie Sisters (Zoom)	Marissa Rice	
Movie Sisters (in person)	Kathleen Stasulis	

Pennies for Prescriptions	Toni Lohman	
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There are Readers Among Us: Book Club Newsl

The Adelante Book Club: The book for the May 19 meeting is *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy. The book for July 28 is *Boat Baby: A Memoir* by Vicky Nguyen.

Contact Barbara Paige for details.

The Literary Lunchers The book group reads a book a month from September – May. In June, we choose the books for the next year. The meetings are held at members' homes, with the hosting member supplying drinks and dessert and the members bringing their 'main entrée' (usually a sandwich). Beginning in April, the book group will meet at 12:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month. May 14, 12:30 at Linda Todd's home. The book is

Master Slave Husband Wife: an epic journey from slavery to freedom By Ilyon Woo
One of the New York Times five best non-fiction books of 2023. In December 1848, a young, enslaved couple named Ellen and William Craft traveled openly by rail, coach and steamship from Macon, Georgia, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ellen, who passed for white, disguised herself as a wealthy disabled man, with William as "his" slave. When the new Fugitive Slave Law in 1850 put them at risk, they fled from the United States. Their very existence challenged the nation's core precepts of life, liberty, and justice for all.

Notify Jacque Dessino, jdessino@mmdva.com or 757-630-9276, if you plan to attend or just want to be added to the list for information about the book group.

We Watch Movies!

On March 11, only Kathleen and Sally went to the movies together. We watched an inspiring film about an all-girls robotics team from Afghanistan.

On May 31, Kathleen will find another film for us. Stay tuned! It will be hot outside and cool in the theater!

Our Zoom Movie Sisters was pre-empted by our rescheduled meeting; however, watch for details for a May showing.

Coming Soon (I hope): Lilly: An emotional drama about a courageous factory worker who fights for justice when cheated and mistreated by her company. Based on the life of Lilly Ledbetter. Please remember that the AAUW was an important party to her suit against Goodyear! We hope that when it hits our theaters, we can go as a big group!

Membership News

We currently have 39 active members.

With the new “rolling enrollment” period, some of us don’t know when our membership is about to expire. Luckily, we have Trusty Tammie to keep us up-to-date. Thanks, Tammie!

Speaking of rolling membership renewals, the following folks need to renew (please!)

January 31 Emily Dreyfus

February 28 Kim Anderson

April 30 Caroline Campbell

Expired: Emily Dreyfus (sorry to see you go!)

Dues are \$103 or \$18.81 for Student. You can renew online or through Tammie. If you want Tammie to process your renewal, mail a check (payable to AAUW Virginia Beach) to 1010 Barnacle Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Summer Birthdays Worth Celebrating!

June: Nanette Huff – 14th

Theresa Nock – 16th

July: Linda Todd—2nd

Arlene Ney – 10th

Alice Forrest – 14th

Tammie Mullins-Rice – 22nd

August: Sally Daniel—11th

Marissa Rice – 21st

Leslie Tourigny – 30th

Press Release from National AAUW

100 Days of the Trump Administration: A Relentless Assault on Higher Education

[Share on Facebook](#) [Share on Twitter](#) [Share via Email](#)

April 30, 2025

In just 100 days, the Trump Administration, has made one thing unmistakably clear: it is waging an aggressive campaign to dismantle higher education — impacting the very students who need it the most. Women, students of color, low-income students, LGBTQ+ students, and students with disabilities are under direct attack.

As an organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls, AAUW is gravely concerned by sweeping moves to roll back civil rights protections, slash student aid, and weaponize political power against institutions of higher learning that should serve all students. These attacks threaten to erase decades of hard-fought progress toward equal opportunity in higher education.

Through a barrage of misleadingly named executive orders, the administration is systemically tearing down the pillars of educational access and accountability:

- ***Restoring Equality of Opportunity and Meritocracy*** directs agencies to gut Title VI protections and eliminate civil rights standards that rely on disparate impact — undermining a key tool for identifying systemic discrimination.
- ***Reforming Accreditation to Strengthen Higher Education*** threatens institutional independence by politicizing the accreditation process and weakening standards for educational quality.
- ***Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*** dismantles decades of civil rights protections by eliminating affirmative action requirements for federal contractors, and rescinding diversity, equity, and inclusion mandates across federal agencies — undermining efforts to promote workplace equity and diversity.
- Other executive orders explicitly revoke federal protections for LGBTQ+ students and enable the federal government to strip funding from universities that champion legal diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

Meanwhile, the administration's proposed budget would eliminate or drastically reduce support for programs that make college a reality for millions:

- Federal Work-Study and Pell Grant surplus funds are on the chopping block.
- Income-driven student loan repayment options and student loan forgiveness programs — particularly those supporting public service workers and borrowers with low incomes are under siege.
- Campus-based childcare programs that student parents rely on to complete their degrees face elimination — disproportionately harming women, who are more likely to take on student debt and balance caregiving responsibilities while pursuing their education.

The attacks don't stop at funding and policy — they extend to the very legal status of institutions that resist political pressure. The administration has openly threatened the nonprofit status of colleges and universities that resist its ideological agenda. Worse still, there are growing concerns that looming executive orders could target nonprofit organizations — particularly those defending civil rights.

The message is clear: dissent will be punished, and equity will be dismantled.

The cost of these attacks is life-altering on real students. For a Latina student navigating financial insecurity, a Black mother pursuing an advanced degree while working, a woman with a disability dealing with changes in eligibility from high school to college for certain accommodations or an LGBTQ+ student facing a hostile campus climate, these changes can mean the difference between graduating and abandoning their dreams.

The consequences are devastating. Doors slam shut. Futures are dimmed. The transformative promise of education — the path to economic security, empowerment, and full participation in society — is betrayed.

AAUW will not stand silent while these rights are stripped away behind closed doors or buried in bureaucratic budgets. We are proud to be an independent, fearless voice for equity, and we are organizing with renewed urgency against this dangerous agenda. The future of higher education is at stake. The future of opportunity is at stake.

We must act — loudly, boldly, relentlessly.

Join us. Fight back. Defend the right to learn.