

# The Sandscript

The American Association of University Women



AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls with the foundational belief that economic empowerment is essential for gender equity.

September 2025

**Welcome to Our New Year!** 🍷🍷🌟🍾🍷🍷

As is our custom, our Branch “took the summer off.” Usually this is just a needed break during a slow time of the year. This year, our summer was anything but “slow.” During this time, our country has undergone a seismic change, ending with two national figures saying that “heads of households” (i.e. men) should be the only ones to vote. I started the summer worried...I ended it battling despair. Does this sound like you?

We are a non-partisan group, but when higher education and women’s suffrage are being challenged, we need to be “I am woman, hear me roar, in numbers too big to ignore!” You’ve already done something by affiliating with an organization that has been fighting against such actions for over 100 years. I worry that we’ve become complacent. It’s time to renew our advocacy. We want to do more than just moan...we want to put find ways to act on our values. Suggest actions and volunteer to help with voter registration and other community events.



And it is time to talk to your friends—who may be feeling as sad as most of us all. The good news is that you can offer (encourage) those friends to join an organization that knows how to fight for women’s rights. Tell them about AAUW. Invite them to come to our meetings and participate in our actions. As they say, “our future is in our hands.”

*Sally Daniel*

President, Virginia Beach AAUW

## What Are We Doing? September Meeting

- **Saturday, September 20, 2025**



**2pm-4pm**



**Health Education Center at Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital  
1060 First Colonial Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23454**

*Why are we here? What is our purpose? What do we want to do?...* Sounds like an existential crisis, but actually more fun than that! Just a few weeks ago, in an enthusiastic meeting imbued with great fellowship and ideas, members of the board brainstormed over what we can do this year to support area women and girls while fulfilling the mission of AAUW. Let's talk about it-Together we can have a rewarding year exploring and contributing to our local community - together we can make a difference! Please plan to join your fellow members at our Branch meeting



### SAVE THE DATE!



- **What:** AAUW Holiday Luncheon
  - **When:** December 23, 2025
  - **Where:** Forbidden Palace Chinese Bar & Bistro |
    - 3333 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach 23452
    - (757) 747-2388
- \*\*\*More details will be sent in the near future-stay tuned!!*

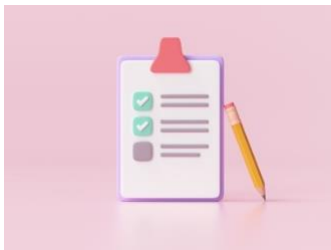
### Results of our Membership May 2025 Survey

#### Meeting Times:

Saturday @2pm ~50%

Wednesday @6:30pm~30%

Won't attend meetings: 50%



#### **Saturdays are OK, but a lot of other events are on Saturday too:**

- For example – the favorite day for Movie Sisters both Zoom and In Person is Saturday, But I will come whenever.
- I live 3 hours away now. I do appreciate the option of Facebook meeting to “attend” that way.
- I plan to be more dedicated to this next year! I call out of town members for Zip Sisters and like to be able to tell them this option is available. Some Zoom meetings would be okay as well.
- I would love in-person meetings on Saturday and Wednesday evenings on Zoom, or some other combination.

**Attendance.** (in person or zoom):

- ◇ In person: 70% Zoom: 30%
- ◇ Board meetings are good on Zoom.
- ◇ Love to be there in person and prefer it, but very thankful for the Zoom option.
- ◇ I want to continue to support group but too many conflicts and demands on my time
- ◇ Combination as described in the last response

**Value most in AAUW**

- Gender Equity. 20%
- Education: 30%
- DEI: 0%
- Fellowship: 20%
- Engaging programs: 10%
- I'm here for the people but I like the causes
- Helping with reach is about all I can do at this time.
- Gender Equity is also the most important



**Types of activities/programs/events wanted for next year**

- Speakers are good. How about a journalist or reporter? Advocating for support for families
- Book club, celebrations, speakers to improve women's quality of life and rights.
- Forum about maternal health, voter registration
- Continue voter registration, gender pay equity events, liaisons with local college for AAUW national programs for women looking for promotions, etc. We are facing critical elections. I would participate in voter registration and writing postcards encouraging people to vote. Additionally, I think we should focus on closing the pay gap.
- More networking events, out in the community

**Preferred method of contact:**

Email: 60% Phone call: 10%. Newsletter: 10%

*Other:*

- Email, but everything should be in the newsletter.
- The newsletter is also really helpful

**What would you volunteer to plan/help**

- Voter registration. ▫ Scholarship team ▫ Anything addressing our public policy initiatives
- Whatever feasible from afar! ▫ Reach, scholarships, Pennies for Rx.
- Organize postcard efforts ▫ DEI, planning, community events

**Feedback for Branch**



Suggest to speakers that they keep it to 30 min. to allow for questions but keep it all about 45 minutes so that meetings don't go on too long.



I'll get back to you on this.



Need solutions for marketing scholarships considering Title IX barriers.



We need to work on membership together



I'm sorry that so few of our members are coming to meetings and becoming active in outside events.



This is a pivotal time for women—we need to organize.



Alternate zoom and in person meeting.

### Virtual Movie Screening



*Have you heard recent comments about women and voting????*

In a way to crank up our rebuttal of this vile notion, we are having a virtual screening of the movie, "[Iron Jawed Angels](#)," on Friday, Sept. 26, 202 via a *Zoom Meeting*.

If you haven't seen this film, you're in for a treat. It is the story of the fight for women's suffrage. Get a couple of friends, pop some popcorn or have an adult beverage and view it together. We'll have a discussion after the movie.

Do you prefer to watch this movie with other people? Great! we are planning on showing it soon in a real room! (you can even simultaneously watch it with others and on Zoom!)

*More details along with the Zoom Meeting link with be sent soon-lookout for the email!*

### Meet the Virginia Beach AAUW Board Members (VB AAUW)

*Sally Daniel, President:* Sally joined the VB Branch of AAUW in 2006 because she wanted to be a part of an organization that fights for the equality of women. She believes that our potential has not yet been realized and hopes that this year will be one filled with action. As a bonus, she has found many good friends among the membership.



*Dana Henning Vice President:* I joined AAUW for the first time in 2009(I think). My friend, Carole Szetela, brought me to a meeting. After a break, I rejoined in

2021. I am member because I strongly believe in equity for women and girls. My duties are to support Sally as needed! I am a musician and a horsewoman.

*Jeanette Olson, Membership Co-Chair:* I have been a member of the VB Branch AAUW since April 2017 because I am passionate about the fight for the rights and equality of women. My other passion is Tap dancing.

*Carole Szetela, VP for Programming:* I have been a member since 2008. I joined in support of AAUW's mission in education, women's rights. I'm in charge of getting speakers for our meetings. (if you know of someone who would be good, please contact me!). I've enjoyed registering people to vote through our efforts. My happy place is walking through wooded mountain areas.

*Kathleen Stasulis, Secretary:* As Secretary, I take the minutes for both the branch meetings and board meetings. I also organize the Movie Sisters In Person events. All the films we view have women on the crew, such as director, producer or writer or movies that have female issues as the theme. I joined AAUW right after my graduation in from University of California, Berkeley in 1972. My aunt was a member, and she gave me a membership as a graduation present. I rejoined in 1985. In 1994, I moved from CA and joined the VB branch. I am active in the Virginia Native Plant Society and also have three grandchildren with #4 on the way in November, so I get on Gramma Duty every often!

*Sandra Brandt, Public Policy Co-Chair:* I've been a AAUW member for 25+ years, joining because I believe in the issues that AAUW is involved with as well as moving women's issues forward. I am currently the Public Policy Co-chair and work on issues at the local, state and federal level that effect women as well as our Democracy. I work on criminal justice issues as well as work to get quality candidates elected at all levels.

*Barbara Woodlee, Public Policy Chair, College/University Partners Representative & Co-Chair of the College/University (C/U) Partners on the AAUW-VA Board:* I've been an AAUW member for more than 10 years. My responsibilities include keeping the Branch informed of State and National C/U Partner initiatives. I love to travel. After a long career as a community college president, I am enjoying a free schedule to travel as we are able to do so.

*Toni Lohman, Chair of Pennies for Prescriptions:* We collect spare change (and dollars) to help PIN Ministries assist the homeless with the cost of their medications. I joined AAUW in 1996, because as the daughter of a widowed mother in the 1950's and 60's I experienced firsthand many of the inequalities women faced. AAUW seemed like a good organization to help today's women and girls have a better life.

*Maria Kronenburg, Co-Chair of Membership:* She has been a branch member for over five years and has been on the VB AAUW board for several years. "I am a passionate college educator, and love to work with women's health, education and DEI issues and events. I enjoy seeing the impact that we have with AAUW projects!"

*Tammie Mullins-Rice, Branch Finance Officer:* I have been a member of AAUW for 26 years. I pay bills for the branch, manage membership dues and contributions as well as organize the annual Holiday Luncheon. I also manage

the branch website and Facebook. I am very community-minded and participate in several community service events in and around Virginia Beach.

*Linda Love, Scholarship Coordinator:* For the past 41 years, I have served students from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade and staff in Virginia Beach City Public Schools. Currently, I facilitate Section 504 teams to support students with disabilities and AVID college and career readiness systems. I earned degrees in English and Education Leadership from University of Virginia and Nova Southeastern University. In my spare time, my husband, Steve, and I love to hike, travel, cook, garden, and support our community.

*Toni Lohman, Chair of Pennies for Prescriptions:* We collect spare change (and dollars) to help PIN Ministries assist the homeless with the cost of their medications. I joined AAUW in 1996 because as the daughter of a widowed mother in the 1950's and 60's I experienced firsthand many of the inequalities women faced. Too add ,AAUW seemed like a good organization to help today's women and girls have a better life.

*Kim Renay Anderson, Newsletter Editor:* Since 20??,I have been a member and recently took the position as newsletter editor because I love to write, and it was an opportunity to use my writing craft to promote the mission of VB AAUW. For over, I have been a public servant consecutively in New York City and Washington, D.C, including teaching English and Writing in at City University of New York and the College of New Rochelle Having experience in public affairs, journalism and film director, I most recently took [my years of creative writing](#) to another level publishing my first [novel](#). I have a MS in journalism from Iona College and a MA in Political Science from Brooklyn College.

## Literary Lunchers Book Group



The Literary Lunchers Book Group (LLBG) reads a book a month from September – May. In June, we choose the books for the next year.

The meetings are generally held at members’ homes on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30p.m. However, there may be changes to the meeting day or time based on because of members’ availability. The hosting member supplies drinks and dessert (s); members bringing their “main entrée” (usually a sandwich).

We try to split the books read evenly between fiction and non-fiction, but usual norm has been a more fiction ,but we do often read classics! (i.e. The Great Gatsby, Frankenstein, To Kill A Mockingbird)

Want to check us out, but have no time to read the book? That’s fine, we don’t really care if you’ve read the book. ☺ This is a great time to get started with the group as our first meeting of the 2025-2026 year will be on September 10, kicking off with the book, [“The Women,” by Kristin Hannah.](#)

Please notify Jacque Dessino via email at [jdessino@mmdva.com](mailto:jdessino@mmdva.com) or call (757) 630-9276, if you plan to attend or just want to be added to the list for information about the book group.

## LLBG Scheduled Meetings



Here's the list of meetings for the fall. *All meetings are 12:30p.m. unless notified differently:*

- **September 10:** [The Women by Kristin Hannah](#).
  - **Reviewer:** Fran Adams
  - **Hostess:** Fran Adams
  
- **October 8:** This is Banned Book Week so we decided that everyone will read a banned book, and we each talk about the book we read.
  - **Reviewer:** All
  - **Hostess:** Linda Todd. Contact Jacque Dessino, [jdessino@mmdva.com](mailto:jdessino@mmdva.com) or (757) 630-9276, if you need a copy of the [American Library Association's list of the Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2024](#) in libraries and schools for 2024.
  
- **November 12:** [James by Percival Everett](#).
  - **Reviewer:** Jacque Dessino
  - **Hostess:** Jane Martin
  
- **December 10:** Lunch get-together. No book



## Membership Matters



### **AAUW's 2025 Strategic Plan: Empowering Equity Through Education**

AAUW's [2025 Strategic Plan](#) is a bold blueprint reaffirming our commitment to advancing equity for women and girls through higher education and inclusive policy advocacy.



### **AAUW Fall Member Gathering**

- Thursday, September 18, 2025
- 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. ET

[Register here and join us for AAUW's Fall Member Gathering!](#) At this special event, we'll:

- *Recognize* outstanding supporters and branches
- *Update* you on our Strategic Plan's 3 key priorities
- *Share* the results of AAUW's FY25 Branch Survey
- *Provide* you with the information you need to answer our **5 Calls to Action!**

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate your branch's contributions, hear about our latest initiatives, and connect with AAUW's mission in action. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **AAUW Fellowship & Grant Applications Close September 30!**

Each year, AAUW provides millions in funding to support women pursuing

academic, research, and professional opportunities that advance equity for women and girls. From graduate education to community-based projects, our awards empower changemakers! [Students, scholars, and leaders should apply today.](#) **Applications close September 30!**

## Board Planning Meeting



*Here is your board before the meeting*

Your Board met for its annual Planning meeting on August 9, 2025. Our first order of business was to review the results of the membership survey (although participation in this was low). A meeting time for the Branch resulted in much discussion. As many of you know, we used to meet on Wednesday nights...but some of our members said that they didn't want to drive at night. So, we switched our meetings to Saturday afternoons, hoping that our attendance would rebound. It did

not—several people complained that Saturdays were too busy already. So, the Board decided on a hybrid model. We will meet by Zoom on the third Thursday evening every other month (Oct, Feb. and April). This will allow folks who don't want to drive at night and those who don't want to tie up Saturday hours to come. We will concentrate on great speakers for these meetings (they will be more willing if they don't have to come to our meetings and we will have a better attendance (right??) by Zoom.

We will continue to meet in person on the third Saturdays at 2pm on the alternate months. At these we will have speakers, but we will be able to attend to branch business, too. We will hold our usual two socials in December and May. *Look in this newsletter for the meeting schedule by month!*



Speaking of speakers, Carole (our Program VP) said that she would like to tie our speakers with a call to action. If they are talking about the expense of childcare, for instance, we would ask our members to contact legislators or whomever to address this issue. If we hear from colleges that have determined a need for food banks, we could have a food bank drive at the next meeting.

We also addressed the lack of visibility of AAUW. *How can we get people to know about us?* We suggested t-shirts with the AAUW logo on the front and something catchy on the back that says what we have done/are doing.





The Board agreed that this is a good idea—and talked about contracting with a firm that would sell individual t-shirts to members so that the Branch would not be put in the position of placing orders. Each person would order their size, and, perhaps, color. Tell the Board what you think about this. We also thought that if we came up with something “snappy,” we might be able to sell it to other branches! Jeanette and Sally will look into this.

We also talked about getting some media attention when we go to college campuses or conduct voter registration drives. We wondered if we could get an Intern from a local college for media relations. To attract younger folks, we need a presence on social media. And, if we donate diapers, food, etc., we could put stickers on those donations to let people know that we do good work.

Last year, we tried to collaborate with colleges. We still not heard anything from ODU’s program. Maria will check on this. We did voter registration at TCC’s Adanced Tech Center and the Joint Use Library. These did not get us the same number of registrations that we have had in past years, but we want to try this again –this election is getting a lot of attention. Our problem here is getting members to staff these tables. Can we count on you??? Let your Board know! The last college interaction was our “Equal Pay” demonstration at VWU. Although we had a good number of students and faculty stop by and get popcorn (given by the pay you would receive according to your race and gender), we were surprised to receive an email from their gender studies saying that some students complained that they did not get the portion of popcorn (given to white men). Of course, that was the purpose of the event.



Our scholarship was also on the agenda. Linda Love, who has coordinated this effort for the past couple of years, has told us that colleges CANNOT advertise a scholarship just for women. We thought of a couple of ways to work with this (Rediculous!) mandate:

- Could we make this scholarship for a single custodial parent; could we take “women” off of the flyer although leave our mission on it to see if men would apply
- Could we stop advertising it through the schools and advertise it through Samaritan House, YWCA, or churches?
- Should we stop the scholarship and use that money for pantries at schools?



**And here is YOUR Board After the meeting! (it was l-on-g!) (Not pictured but at the meeting: Barbara Woodlee)**

## WE NEED EVERYONE'S FEEDBACK ABOUT THIS!

We also talked about the *500 Get Out The Vote* postcards we have to complete and mail. Thanks to Sandra, we got our stamps on sale (who knew?). One postcard party was scheduled. At this time, all the lists have been claimed so we reached our 500 goal!



### NOTE OUR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR

- Saturday, September 20, 2025:
  - In person meeting at 2pm
- Thursday, October 16, 2025
  - Zoom meeting at 7pm
- Saturday, November 15, 2025
  - In person at 2pm
- Saturday, December 13, 2025
  - Holiday luncheon @ [Forbidden Palace Chinese Bar and Bistro](#)
- Thursday, January 15, 2026
  - Zoom meeting at 7pm
- Saturday, Feb. 21. In person meeting at 2pm
- Thursday, March 19. Zoom meeting at 7pm
- Saturday, April 18. In person meeting at 2pm
- No meeting in May, but the Spring banquet is on May 16

### VB AAUW Bakers Corner

Hey AAUW Members-do you have a family recipe or even recipe LOVE that you'd like to share? Or better yet, do you have your own creative recipe that "hands down" has family members literally, "kicking and screaming" asking you, "How do you make that?" or fighting for the last piece? Here is your chance to share with your AAUW Sisters! And now to kick-off the sharing with my scone recipe! (okay, okay, it is really from a Brooklyn based-Italian cousin of mine, Helene



#### Anise Biscotti

1 cup canola oil  
1 cup sugar  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
2 tablespoons of pure anise extract  
3 eggs  
3 cups of flour

Mix the first five ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Add flour and mix by hand. Make 4 strips on 2 baking sheets. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Cut into strips at a slant, turn each strip on its side. Bake 8 to 10 minutes more. Remove from baking sheet and cool. ENJOY!!! 😊

## Old Dominion University Center for Career & Leadership Development **For Community Partners**

Are you a community or campus partner and need help recruiting volunteers for your agency or a volunteer project you are managing? Our Helper Helper platform allows you to post volunteer opportunities that Old Dominion University (ODU) students and staff can view, as well as manage your registered volunteers.

Here's how you can join Helper Helper and share events with the ODU community:

- Email [volunteer@odu.edu](mailto:volunteer@odu.edu) with your organization name and contact information for the Volunteer Coordinator
- Once you've been added to ODU's Helper Helper account, go to [app.helperhelper.com](http://app.helperhelper.com) and select "Need a password for the first time?"
- Request a password using the email address provided to ODU's team
- Click on the "Opportunities" tab and select "Add opportunity"
- Fill out required fields and click "Save." Your volunteer opportunity will be available to ODU's team to approve!

Once we approve your event, ODU users will be able to register for your event, and you will be able to manage volunteers, check them in using the app, and validate their hours.



For more information about this opportunity

- Click here to read more about [For Community Partners | Old Dominion University](#)
- If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our staff at [volunteer@odu.edu](mailto:volunteer@odu.edu)

## Membership Renewals!

Renewal is now on a rolling cycle so the following members have renewal dates:

### June 30<sup>th</sup>

- Lee Ellen Knight
- Arlene Ney Sally Pattison-Cisna
- Carole Szetela

### July 31<sup>st</sup>

- Alana Kronenburg
- Barbara Paige

### Expired

- Emily Dreyfus

Dues:

- \$103 General
- \$18.81 Undergraduate & Graduate Students



## Membership Renewal Options

- ◇ 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! Please send a check to Tammie Mullins Rice (**payable to AAUW Virginia Beach!**)



1010 Barnacle Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

\*If you have any issues or question about renewal, please call Tammie (757) 630-7097 or email her [Tammieammieaauw@gmail.com](mailto:Tammieammieaauw@gmail.com)



## VB AUW Branch Board 2025-2026 2025-2026



### Elected Positions



President – Sally Daniel



Vice President – Dana Henning



Vice President of Program -Carole Szetela



Co – Vice President of Membership

- Jeanette Olson
- Maria Kronenburg



Finance Officer – Tammie Mullins-Rice



Secretary – Kathleen Stasulis

### Appointed Positions

AAUW Funds Chair – **CURRENTLY VACANT: Is this one for you?**

LTVB for AAUW Funds Chair – **CURRENTLY VACANT: Is this one for you?**

Autobell Coupons – **CURRENTLY VACANT: Is this one for you?**

College /University Chair



Sally Daniel

*Community Outreach*



Pennies for Prescriptions – Toni Lohman



Reach – Chris Medlin



Bylaws Chair – Neola Waller



*Diversity Officer*



Maria Kronenburg

*Hospitality*



Branch Hospitality – Sally Daniel



Holiday Luncheon- Tammie Rice



May Banquet – Tammie Rice



Linda Todd Scholarship Chair – Linda Love

*Newsletter Editor*



Kim Renay Anderson–

*Public Policy Chair*



Sandra Brandt



Barbara Woodlee

*Publicity/Communications*



Website – Tammie Mullins- Rice



Facebook – Tammie Mullins Rice



LinkedIn – Marissa Rice

**EDITOR'S CORNER** 

See information missing from this newsletter? An error? Any aspect of this newsletter that has made you so unhappy you want to throw marshmallows at my feet? If so, reach out to me for corrections. My intent it to make this newsletter enjoyable to read and promote AAUW mission.



Deadline for submissions: The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. My intent going forward is distribute the newsletter on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.



Got submissions for the newsletter? Please send directly to me



[kanderson06@live.com](mailto:kanderson06@live.com)

Have a better than good day! 😊

*Kim Renay Anderson*

Sanscript Editor

