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.

October 2025*

President's Message



Our goal this year is to make people aware of the AAUW. How many times have you had to explain who we are and what we do? Why doesn't everyone know about this organization? This lack of knowledge is not because we haven't been in the forefront of the fight to give women agency. It must be because we do this too quietly.

So, this year, let us make sure that we publicize ourselves! Come to meetings—both virtually and in-person AND invite your friends to join you. We put our purpose at the first of this newsletter so that you can come up with some talking points. AAUW's mission has not been completed. We are still fighting for women's inclusion in the Constitution. We are still fighting for equal pay. We are still fighting....for women.

So, our Virginia Beach Branch Board is committed to increasing our visibility within our community. I hope for a time when I do not have to tell people who we are and what we do. Please, join the Board as we strengthen our place in Virginia Beach! Volunteer to help us succeed. Your Board is hard at work. But we need your everyone to pitch in.

Please help us identify ways in which you can be part of this reenergized Branch! There will be several initiatives listed in this newsletter that need volunteers. (or suggest an activity!) I hope that many of you will get re-energized for AAUW. We need all hands-on deck in this time of uncertainty. Find something that "speaks to you" and let either me or the organizer of that initiative know of your willingness to help.

AAUW empowers women—let us show the world what empowered women can do! Let me know where you can use your talents and passion!!!!

Purpose of the AAUW

AUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls hinges on the foundational belief that economic empowerment is essential for gender equity. Supporting women in higher education is crucial to this mission because it serves as a key pathway to economic security and upward mobility.

• We believe that higher education is a key driver to achieving economic prosperity



- We believe economies thrive when all women are empowered and educated
- We believe in equitable access to higher education that is diverse and inclusive, and free of harassment and discrimination that could hinder the advancement of women
- We believe women deserve the opportunity to pursue and thrive in any career they choose
- We believe working women deserve equitable access and advancement in their careers, free from harassment and discrimination, with equity of pay, greater access to quality & affordable dependent care, paid family, medical, & sick leave, and a full range of reproductive health care services, to ensure economic security
- We believe in the dignity of all women inclusive of the backgrounds they represent, including race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, religious beliefs, disability, gender identity and sexual orientation, and geographic location and value their equitable participation in education, the workforce, and policy decisions

We empower potential.

SAVE THE DATE!



- o **What:** AAUW Holiday Luncheon
- o When: December 13, 2025 [*DATE CORRECTION]
- o **Where:** Forbidden Palace Chinese Bar & Bistro
 - o 3333 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virgina Beach 23452
 - o (757) 747-2388
 - ***More details will be sent in the near future-stay tuned!

AAUW September 2025 Accomplishments!



Joining Forces with the League of Women Voters: We believe that collaboration with like-minded community groups will not only benefit us but will amplify our efforts within the community. To that end, the Board voted to join the LWV in endorsing the "yes vote" on Virginia Beach 10-1 referendum. Three of us attended their organizational meeting and agreed to supply people to staff early voting stations with volunteers to give out information about voting "yes" on 10-1. Jeanette and Sally have already done this. But there are MANY shifts left. Please look at the times needed (listed in another article) and volunteer to pass out informational cards.

Voter Registration: As we have done for the past several years, we staffed voter registration tables. This year, we tabled five times at the Joint Use Library and the Advanced Technology Center (both at TCC). Many people thanked us for doing this (and some expressed interest in the AAUW). However, we only completed seven applications. Also unfortunately, we only had Board members volunteer to staff these tables. Thank you to Jeanette, Dana, Barbara and Sally for doing this.

Showing Iron Jawed Angels: Thanks to Marissa Rice, we were able to Zoom this great film highlighting women's fight for suffrage in the U.S. The good news is that we advertised this to other branches, and we had several members of those branches join us. The reactions to the movie were very positive. This is a story that EVERYONE should see. If you didn't "tune in," you still have a chance to see it at our "in person" showing at WHRO on October 18 (see related article) opportunity.

Sharing our Identity on our Backs (and in our hands): Thanks to Jeanette, we now can order some really cool t-shirts that identify us as AAUW members (see related article for how you can buy one or more!). This took much time and creativity. Thanks!!! She also had "business cards" made for us so it will be easier for us to give information about AAUW to others.

SWAG: Since we are gearing up to get out in the community, we decided that we should have "swag" to give out at public events. We have

- o Pens and "stess stars" with our information on them.
- o Bought some notebooks with "AAUW" on them to give to speakers.
- o Replaced our old (and lost) AAUW tablecloth—so we are ready to "set up shop."

Movie Sisters



Got any plans for Saturday October 4th? No? Well, now you do!

Join us at the AMC Theatre at the Lynnhaven Mall to watch the movie, "Eleanor The Great."

- 1001 Lynnhaven Mall Loop, Virginia Beach, VA 23452
- **•** (757) 486-5665

This drama was produced and directed by actress Scarlett Johansson, including stars such as June Squibb. June, who is 94 years old has been acting on stage and movies since her childhood.

Film Overview: After seventy years with her best friend, Eleanor moves to New York City for a fresh start. Making new friends at ninety proves difficult. Longing for connection, she befriends a 19-year-old student.

The movie starts promptly at 11:00 am- so let's arrive at 10:45 am to get our tickets and snacks. *FYI: The Official Release Party of Taylor Swift's Life of a Showgirl happens this weekend, so it may be busy at the theatre.

Watch the movie trailer here: THE GREAT | Official Trailer (2025)

See you Saturday!!



In-Person 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 an "in-person" free showing of the movie, "Iron

<u>Jawed Angels</u>," on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at WHRO, 5200 Hampton Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23508.

This unrated film takes "a fresh and contemporary look at a pivotal event in American history telling the true story of how defiant and brilliant young activists Alice Paul (played by Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (played by Frances O'Connor) took the women's suffrage movement by storm, putting their lives at risk to help American women win the right to vote."

A Sign-Up Genius will go out because there is limited seating available for this event (wouldn't it be nice to fill up?).

Bring your friends and family.! Free Popcorn will be provided!



And a sincere "thank you" to Ginny Werner for securing WHRO as the venue for this showing!

Distributing Voter Information for the VB Referendum

Throughout October until November 4: There are numerous opportunities to represent AAUW when you hand out explanations of the VB referendum on how our city will elect the city council. AAUW, Virginia Beach, has endorsed the "yes" vote.

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. (3) 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 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.

Coming Up!

Next Branch Meeting will be on Zoom at 7:00pm on Thursday, October 16.

Zoom link

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84560350908?pwd=dGj1h916d ooBrsEKdaEyZASaHsk9pF.1

■ **Meeting ID:** 845 6035 0908

Passcode: 601019



See related article for speaker information!

An email will also be sent out with this link closer to the meeting date.

AAUW Merchandise for Sale - Shop, Support, Spark Change!

A store has been established that you can visit to buy AAUW merchandise. Click on the following link to review the items available:

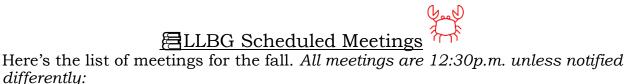
aauw-products@printify.com

Please keep in mind when ordering that there are items that are Unisex, and these items are going to be larger and boxier than a woman's style.

The initial orders that are made are somewhat of a test run. We haven't seen all of these items in person yet. It is our hope that people will wear the shirts to our public-facing events and out in the community to start conversations about AAUW.

When you wear or use these branded items, you show your support for and spread awareness of AAUW's mission.

Also, every purchase you make goes directly to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund which provides resources, support, and opportunities for women and girls.



- 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.
 - o **Reviewer:** All
 - o **Hostess:** Linda Todd. Contact Jacque Dessino. idessino@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 Everrett.
 - o **Reviewer:** Jacque Dessino
 - o **Hostess:** Jane Martin
- **December 10:** Lunch get-together. No book





AAUW's 2025 Strategic Plan: Empowering Equity Through Education

AAUW's <u>2025 Strategic Plan</u> is a bold blueprint reaffirming our commitment to advancing equity for women and girls through higher education and inclusive policy advocacy.

The Atlantic Regional AAUW Conference's theme is "Unfinished Revolution: Together We Stand."

Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott Hotel

- o September 25–27, 2026
- o 25 S Queen St, Lancaster, PA 17603
- o (717) 239-1600

You can reserve your room by going to this <u>link</u>



NOTE OUR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR



Thursday, October 16, 2025

o Zoom meeting at 7pm



Saturday, November 15, 2025

o In person at 2pm



Saturday, December 13, 2025

o Holiday luncheon @ <u>Forbidden Palace Chinese Bar and Bistro</u>



Thursday, January 15, 2026

o Zoom meeting at 7pm



Saturday, Feb. 21.

o In person meeting at 2pm



Thursday, March 19.

o Zoom meeting at 7pm



Saturday, April 18.

o 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 Sally D's Lemonade pie!



Ingredients

- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 can (6 ounces) frozen lemonade concentrate, partially thawed
- 2 to 3 drops yellow food coloring, optional
- 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 graham cracker crust (8 inches)
- Lemon slices and fresh mint, optional

Directions

In a large bowl, combine milk, lemonade and food coloring if desired. Fold in the whipped topping; spoon into crust. Chill until ready to serve. If desired, garnish with lemon slices and mint. Yield: 6-8 servings. 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 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 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

October Meeting

On Tuesday, October 16, 2025, at 7:00pm our Branch meeting will take place on Zoom.

In the comfort of your homes you will meet a representative of the League of Women Voters, who will present us with an overview of the League's mission and activities.

Sally Daniel, our president, and other members of the Board have been meeting with League members, intent on forming an alliance with the local League chapter to unite on issues and activities which relate to our common goals.



Please join in learning more about the League and exploring the possibilities for an exciting collaboration.



Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84560350908?pwd=dGj1h916dooBrsEK daEvZASaHsk9pF.1



Meeting ID: 845 6035 0908



Passcode: 601019

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNERS3

At present, there are eight College/University Partners in Virginia:



George Mason University



Randolph College

Shenandoah University

University of Mary Washington

University of Virginia at Wise

Virginia State University

Washington and Lee University

We have learned from Angela Cooper at AAUW that a College/University Newsletter will be published in September. It will be sent to campus professionals, students, and C/U Relations officers at the state and branch levels. Additionally, the College/University Toolkit is available at the AAUW website.

Barbara Woodlee and Marsha Melkonian are scheduling a Zoom meeting for College/University Representatives on October 16, 2025, at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to provide opportunity for sharing materials and approaches that have been effective in building relationships with higher education institutions.



Our intent is to hopefully soon build soon on our relationship with Virginia Wesleyan University. Please contact Barbara Woodlee (barbarawoodlee@gmail.com) if you wish to participate in the session, want more information about our College/University Partners Program or want to become involved in this effort. All volunteers are welcome!

Special thanks to Maria Kronenburg and Sally Daniel for their work over the spring and summer with Old Dominion University's Gender Studies Center. While ODU did not become an AAUW College/University Partner, the Center will collaborate with AAUW-Virginia Beach Branch on several efforts including *International Women's Day and All Women's Equal Pay Day*.

Membership Renewals!

♦ Online: Click <u>HERE</u> 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) 630-7097or email her Tammieammieaauw@gmail.com

A Friendly Note from Chris Medlin Regarding children's Books

Think about taking a clear Autumn day and check out your local book exchange or thrift stores. The bargains are terrific on gently used books for kids that we donate to the <u>REACH program</u>.

Tell your friends about the project and enlist their help. For as little as the price of a sandwich you can help circulate books with all kinds of themes, especially DEI, into the hands of children hungry to read. You can also write Chris a check in any amount, and she will shop for you. No amount too small!

Pennies for Prescriptions: started in 2003, this all-time favorite project has gleaned thousands of dollars of medication support for local families, many of whom are headed by single mothers.

Do consider collecting spare change to contribute to this worthy project. Last January a group of us gathered for a penny rolling potluck. Coins, found in a house about to be sold, came from years of collecting and it boosted our contribution, so check those sofa cushions, glove boxes and



Miscellaneous hiding places, you may be amazed at what you find!

Thank you for your continuing generosity!

Happy Birthday! We're Glad You Were Born!!





June Lam9/11

Daisy Smith 9/3

Kathleen Stasulis 10/2

Carole Szetela 10/14

Help Wanted

Friendly People to Greet Folks at the Movie on October 18: Shift 3:30 – 5:00. Must be able to be welcoming and be able to give directions.

Popcorn Popper at the movie on October 18.: Shift. 3:30 - 6:00. We have a "commercial" popcorn popper and will have pre-measured bags of popcorn and oil. Must be able to simple instructions on use of popcorn popper. Must be able to scoop popcorn into cups.

Educational Consultant: Various shifts during Early Voting. Must greet people in friendly manner, asking if they would like the 10-1 informational postcard. Give them the postcard. If they don't want the postcard, thank them for coming out to vote.

Basket Coordinator (BC): Every year our Branch auctions off several baskets at the Holiday banquet. We ask members to bring items for the baskets when they come to our November in-person meeting. The coordinator reminds people of the basket themes and requests donations in the November Sandscript. BC also has the responsibility to collect the donations and arranges a time for several people to work filling the basket.

Basket Fillers: Assist in making the baskets lovely at the basket-filling party. This may be too much fun for some people. Must be able to discern like-basket items (i.e. wine basket, chocolate basket, spa basket—you get the drift.

Hospitality: We all expect to have something munchy and something to drink at our in-person meetings. We need to have someone coordinate this function. You may supply the snacks OR pass a sign-up sheet around to have people

volunteer to bring either snacks or drinks to the next in-person meeting. Then, you have to call your volunteers a couple of days before the meeting to remind

them what they volunteered to bring. (BTW: thanks, Carole, for bringing the *yummy snacks at the September meeting)*

New Activities Instigator: What do you wish our Branch would do? What about a dining out club? Every month, you could pick a (woman-owned?) restaurant and invite your AAUW sisters to dine together or create a games night or whatever you want.

To volunteer for any of these fun positions, please talk to Sally Daniel!

♥ 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

- o Jeanette Olson
- o 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 15th of each month. My intent going forward is distribute the newsletter on the 1st of each month. Reminder: The later items are sent in for the newsletter,

the later it goes out! ©

Have a better than good day! © Kim Renay Anderson
Sandscript Editor

Virginia Beach Branch Board July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 Elected Officers							
				4	+		
				President	Sally Daniel	swdaniel01@gmail.com	757-495-4349
Vice President	Dana Henning	danahenning0@gmail.com	401-662-6613				
Program VP	Carole Szetela	karolka@verizon.net	757-681-4191				
Co-VPs for Membership	<u>Jeanette Olson</u>	Olsonej@verizon.net	757-663-8527				
	Maria Kronenburg	makronstats@gmail.com	757-650-7112				
Secretary	Kathleen Stasulis	stasulisss@hotmail.com	757-576-5485				
Finance Officer	Tammie Mulllins-Rice	tammieaauw@gmail.com	757-630-7097				
Appointed Positions							
AAUW Funds							
College-University Chair	Barbara Woodlee	barbarawoodlee@gmail.com	207-649-9711				
Community Outreach Coordinators							
Pennies for Prescriptions	Toni Lohman	tlohman@verizon.net	757-636-5230				
Fundraiser							
Reach	Chris Medllin	cmedlin8491@gmail.com	757-361-5826				
Diversity, Inclusion, Equity	Maria Kronenberg	makronstats@gmail.com	(757) 650-7112				
Public Policy	Sandra Brandt	brandt@theelectivegroup.com	757-288-9558				
Newsletter Editor	Kim Anderson	kanderson06@live.com	c:917-579-7439. h:202-507-8003				