



U P D A T E S

Volume 64

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Issue 01

President's Message

Ann Sauberman, Co-President

After what seems to be a short summer, school has recently started, and we can now look forward to cooler days and a new season for the Springfield-Annandale AAUW Branch. Many of our members have been working on new programs and activities all summer. It is important for each of us to read *UPDATES*, creatively compiled each month by Judy Titterton, and then continue to look for emails with specific information. Our Branch can only be successful if each of us becomes aware and participates. There is so much we can learn from our monthly Program meetings created by our Co-Vice Presidents for Programs, Irene McGhee and Amy Crolus. Read the Program notes in this newsletter and **Save The Date** for these events. In addition, there are many activities that we can join to help us fulfill our AAUW Mission.

One activity that I suggest is to join the AAUW Program **Get Out The Vote** (GOTV). If you have been watching the news, it *looks* like the next important election is in 2024. There already has been the first televised Republican debate. The news has concentrated on the 2024 presidential candidates, their strategies and of course the polls. This is misleading. For Virginians, the 2023 election is extremely important and must not be overlooked. This November, the entire General Assembly-House and Senate is on the ballot. There has been redistricting so we need to confirm our voting districts and polling places, as well as who is running for State Senate and House of Delegates in our current district.



President's Message *continues on page 2.*

AAUW National Website: <https://www.aauw.org/>

AAUW-VA Website: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/>

Springfield-Annandale Website: <https://sprann-va.aauw.net/>

Like us on Facebook. Search *Springfield-Annandale AAUW*

AAUW Mission Statement

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Vision: Equity for all. Values: Non-partisan. Fact based.

AAUW 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, or socio-economic status.

President's Message *continued from page 1*

Not only will we be voting for state legislators, but also for the Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff, and other local officials. Our state and local officials affect our lives every day.

When I taught Government at Hayfield High School many years ago, I would explain to my students that of course we live near the Nation's Capital and are more aware of national news, but we need to study about the government in Richmond and in Fairfax County. Both the State and local government develop our education policy and budget, run our police and fire departments, build and maintain roads, and pass state and local laws. This is only a portion of their responsibility. It is essential as AAUW members that we concentrate on this very important 2023 Virginia election, which will choose both our state and local government representatives.

Join Susan Burk, our Public Policy Chair, at her home on Wednesday, **September 6**, 12:30 – 4:00 P.M. Susan is hosting a “postcard writing party.” Our Branch is now committed to write 500 postcards for **Reclaim Our Vote** (ROV). ROV is a campaign from the non-partisan Center for Common Ground that focuses on registered but unrepresented voters, principally voters of color who don't usually vote in off year elections. The postcards, postage, instructions/scripts, labels will be available for pick up. Refreshments will be served. Many members have already signed up but everyone is invited. If you plan to attend, notify Susan so that she can have enough supplies.

Another option for members to get involved is the AAUW **Lobby Corps**. Since its formation in 1972, AAUW Lobby Corps volunteers have made in-person visits to Congressional offices on behalf of AAUW members, supporting our national mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Lobby Corps stopped during the pandemic and years following January 6, 2021, but they already had one meeting during the summer and plan to resume meeting this fall. Personally, for at least 4 years, I enjoyed joining other AAUW members from Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia to study the issues and present the national AAUW position to either legislators or their representatives. Refer to the Public Policy section in this newsletter for more details.

There are many other ways that each of us can be involved in our Branch including two book groups, the movie group, and special activities that are advertised in *UPDATES* or by e-mail. There are also informative and enjoyable programs run by other local AAAUW Branches, who invite us to join. Both Cathie Boivin, (Co-President) and I hope to see you at many events this year.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Judy Baldwin, DEI Representative

[AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org) has several fine articles that deal with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. “Removing Bias from Education,” “Fighting for Fair Pay and Economic Equity,” and “Advancing Women in Leadership,” to name a few.

You can catch up on recent webinars on “Fighting for Working Mothers,” and “Tech Power to Economic Power: Closing the Digital Gender Gap.” The website also offers a DEI toolkit with suggestions on incorporating these concepts into meetings and activities.

Branch Program Meeting – September 9

Irene McGhee, Amy Crolus, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs



Shari Henri

Our programs for this fall have been coming together nicely. We have a variety of topics, speakers, and events that will enhance our AAUW mission for equity and inclusion and outreach to community through affiliation with the Fairfax County Library System at Pohick Regional Library.

The first Program for the Membership Year is Saturday, **September 9**, at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. Featured speaker, Shari Henri, Director of Democracy and Community Impact, Urban Library Council, will address “Speaking Out to Save Free Speech.” Refer to the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Northern District Meeting – September 23

Attend the Northern District Meeting of AAUW on Saturday, **September 23**, at the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, 10:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. The focus of the meeting is AAUW’s Public Policy and Advocacy Agenda.

Featured speakers are Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director, Policy and Member Advocacy, and Janine Greenwood, AAUW-VA Co-Vice President for Public Policy. Refer to the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Donations of diapers and baby wipes are requested for:

Generation Hope www.generationhope.org/

Women Giving Back womengivingback.org/

- All items must be new, unopened, and in original packaging
- Women Giving Back requests diapers in sizes 4 and 6

Branch Program Meeting – October 25

Irene McGhee, Amy Crolus, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs

A tour of the Women’s Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery is planned for Wednesday, **October 25**, starting at 1:00 P.M. Springfield-Annandale AAUW member, Sandra Lawrence, will act as guide. Tour begins in the lobby by the gift shop and typically lasts 45 minutes to an hour. After a walk through the Education Center, the tour will end on the rooftop terrace which is accessible either via stairs or elevator. More on this in October’s newsletter.

November’s Branch Program Meeting will feature
2023 State Legislature Update with Delegate Kathy
Tran from Fairfax County



Pohick Regional Library
“Where Do We Go From Here?”
Date and Time TBD



On December 6, we will enjoy

Holiday Tea with Mrs. B.

136 W. Jefferson St., Falls Church

1:00 – 3:00 P.M.
Surprise Visitor!!!

Membership News

Deborah Dodd, Debbie Gilligan, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

The Branch has 60 members who have renewed their membership thus far. We are happy to announce a new member, Elaine Anderson. Join me in welcoming her at upcoming events.

If you have questions about Branch renewal, contact Deborah Dodd or Debbie Gilligan.

2023-2024 Membership Directory

Deborah Dodd, Membership Directory Editor

I am in the process of compiling the *Springfield-Annandale AAUW 2023-2024 Membership Directory*. If there are any changes to your address or telephone number(s), then email the changes to me. If you have any questions, email or call me. I will use the list from last year that indicates those members who requested hard copies of the directory and those who chose to access it online. If, however, you accessed the directory online last year but would prefer a hard copy this year, let me know. I will have the directories at the **September 9** Program meeting.

Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

Democracy is not a spectator sport

In her President's Message, Ann Sauberman has highlighted the importance of the upcoming **November 7** election in Virginia. Its outcome will decide women's rights, education rights, voting rights and LGBTQ rights. AAUW and AAUW-VA are non-partisan, but political. The issues we have traditionally supported in Richmond and in Washington, including equity and economic security for women and families (e.g., pay equity, paid family and medical leave), a strong public education system, reduced impediments to voting, and women's access to healthcare, should be nonpartisan. Women's rights are human rights!

AAUW-VA Voter Guides

AAUW-VA's Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy are enlisting volunteers to develop voter guides for the 40 seats in the Virginia Senate. If you are interested in helping with this effort, let me know. You should have received an email on this initiative with the templates for the guides. I am happy to resend it if you can't find it.

GOTV

Thank you to the 19 Branch members who volunteered to write postcards for Reclaim Our Vote, a campaign of the non-partisan Center for Common Ground that focuses on registered, but underrepresented voters, principally voters of color. As Ann mentioned, we have now committed to write 500 postcards, 200 more than our original 300 card commitment! We will meet on **September 6** to write postcards as a group at my house, 12:30 – 4:00 P.M. The combination of fellowship and active citizenship will be rewarding – guaranteed.



Voter Registration

National Voter Registration Day is **September 19**. This year, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will not be setting up voter registration tables at Fairfax County public libraries. I am working to get more information on what the League plans to do to register voters and will provide it when I receive it.

Key Dates for VA's General Election

September 23, Early in-person voting begins for VA General Election

October 16, Deadline to register to vote or update registration for VA General Election

October 27, Deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail in VA General Election

Welcome Back AAUW Lobby Corps

After nearly four years of hiatus, AAUW Lobby Corps is back on Capitol Hill. Lobby Corps traveled to Capitol Hill on July 27 to meet with lawmakers and urge them to support the Equal Rights Amendment. Since its formation in 1972, AAUW Lobby Corps volunteers have made tens of thousands of in-person visits to congressional offices on behalf of AAUW members and supporters placing a name and face to our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Lobby Corps volunteers are trained in how to effectively advocate AAUW's priority issues with members of Congress and their staff. Volunteers receive briefings on each issue topic before going on visits and new Lobby Corps volunteers are paired with experienced members. Capitol Hill lobby days are typically held once a month when Congress is in session. We understand that more visits are planned to advocate for passage for AAUW's policy priorities, including the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Several members of our Branch, including Sandy Lawrence, Marcy Leverenz, Irene McGhee, and Ann Sauberman have been members of Lobby Corps. Sandy participated in the July 27 event. Let her know if you are interested in joining future visits to the Hill. No experience or expertise is necessary - only a commitment to promoting AAUW's nonpartisan public policy priorities. If you're interested to learn more, AAUW National will be sharing information on two Zoom meetings, **September 14**, 9:30 A.M., and **September 21**, 7:00 P.M.

Dates to Note

September 28, Pre-Election AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting, 6:00 P.M. (link will be provided)

October 5, Latina's Equal Pay Day. We're not there yet but we will persist.

White House Ornaments Are Here

Susan Burk and Sharon Draper



We are selling White House Christmas Ornaments as a fundraiser again this year. This is a signature fundraiser for our Branch, and we're excited to be offering them again this year. Many organizations sell these beautiful ornaments for fundraising and we are getting an early start to beat the rush! Ornament price is \$24.00. (This is a dollar less than Amazon). Thank you to those members who already have started selling.



The 2023 Official White House Christmas Ornament is a festive holiday wreath, adorned with decorations inspired by the handcrafted Christmas ornaments used in the White House during the Gerald R. Ford, Jr., administration. Dozens of dolls, cherubs, doves, stars, flowers, gingerbread men, candles, and pentagon balls, in bright, cheery colors are featured with red ribbons at the bottom bearing the words "Christmas 2023" and "The White House."

Let us know how many you would like, and we will get them to you. Thanks in advance for your help selling and raising funds for AAUW.

Evening Book Group – Virtual

The Evening Book Group will meet via Zoom on Thursday, **September 7**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *The Stolen Lady*, by Laura Morelli. Cathie Boivin is the scheduled reviewer.

The group will meet virtually again **October 5** for a discussion of *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Mary Kay Johnson will lead the review. Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information.

Morning Literature Group – Live

The Morning Literature Group will meet live on **September 14**, 10:00 A.M. The topic book is *The Housekeeper and the Professor*, by Yuko Ogawa. Wendy Cleland-Hannett is the scheduled reviewer with Karen Flann hosting.

The group will meet live on **October 12**, for a discussion of *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng. Betty Sheehan will lead the review and Terry Graham will host. Contact Jo Domingues for more information.

Movies at Midweek

Bev Wise and Helen Cassidy, Movie Mavens

Movies at Midweek will meet on the third Wednesday, **September 20**, at Cinema Arts Theater, 9650 Main Street, Fairfax. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.

CALENDAR

September 6, 12:30 P.M.	Reclaim Our Vote Postcard Writing Party	page 4
September 7, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 6
September 9, 3:00 P.M.	Branch Program Meeting	page 3
September 14, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Literature Group Meeting – Live	page 6
September 14, 9:30 A.M.	Lobby Corp Zoom	page 5
September 19	National Voter Registration Day	page 5
September 20	Movies at Midweek	page 6
September 21, 7:00 P.M.	Lobby Corp Zoom	page 5
September 22	October UPDATES submissions due to Judy Titterton, Editor	
September 23, 10:30 A.M.	Northern District Meeting	page 3
September 23	Early In-Person Voting	page 5
September 28, 6:00 P.M.	Public Policy Zoom	page 5
October 5, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 6
October 5	Latina Equal Pay Day	page 5
October 12, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Literature Group Meeting – Live	page 6
October 16	Deadline to Register to Vote	page 5
October 25, 1:00 P.M.	Branch Program Meeting	page 3
October 27	Deadline to Apply for Absentee Ballot	page 5

AAUW was founded by Marion Talbot, who became the Dean of the College of Women at the University of Chicago and a leading figure in higher education, and Ellen Swallow Richards, the first woman to earn a degree in chemistry and a leader in the field of home economics. The year was 1881.

At that time, women faced significant barriers in accessing higher education and in pursuing jobs outside a limited number of fields. **AAUW**'s founding marked one of the first organized efforts to advance opportunities for women to pursue higher education and careers — and for equal treatment with men.

(www.aauw.org/about/history/)

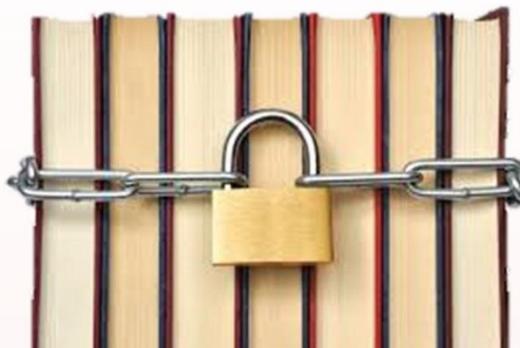
Newsletter articles for October UPDATES are due September 22.

— Judy Titterton, Editor

Speaking Out to Save Free Speech

Grow your appreciation for what it means to live in a country whose founding document prioritizes and protects our right to say, read, and write what we choose.

Saturday, September 9th
3:00 to 4:30 pm
Pohick Regional Library
Adults and teens welcome



Presented by Shari Henry, Director of Democracy and Community Impact, Urban Libraries Council . Shari has worked on the front-lines of the fight to protect the rights afforded to us in the First Amendment, especially as they relate to work libraries are doing every day to preserve the equitable access to information for all.

Co-sponsored by the AAUW, Annandale/
Springfield Chapter and Pohick Regional Library



Fairfax County Public Library
12000 Government Center Parkway
Suite 324
Fairfax, VA 22035
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library



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ADA accommodations,
call 703-256-3800, TTY 711.





Northern District Meeting

Saturday, September 23, 2023

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library

5005 Duke Street, Alexandria

**Our focus is on AAUW's Public Policy and Advocacy Agenda:
Get Informed and Be Engaged.**

Meet and hear our speakers:



Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior
Director, Policy & Member Advocacy



Janine Greenwood, AAUW-VA Co-VP
for Public Policy

[Questions?? Contact: ltourigny@gmail.com](mailto:ltourigny@gmail.com)

Find directions and more information on the next page.

**Back by
Popular Demand!**

We will be collecting **diapers** and **baby wipes** for:

GENERATION HOPE (<https://www.generationhope.org>)

WOMEN GIVING BACK (<https://womengivingback.org>)

- *All items must be new, unopened, and in original packaging.*
- *Women Giving Back requests diapers in sizes 4 and 6.*



Directions to the Beatley Central Library at 5005 Duke Street:

If you are heading East on Duke Street, you'll need to make a **left turn at the traffic light on North Pickett Street**, which is the street before you reach the library. There is a **CVS** on the corner. **After you turn and pass the two driveways for the CVS, turn right at the next driveway, where there is a small sign for the library.** You'll be in the library parking lot.

If you are heading West on Duke Street to reach the Beatley Central Library at 5005 Duke Street, **you will be able to make a right turn into the library parking lot directly from Duke Street after you pass the library building on your right.**
