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# U P D A T E S

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Volume 66

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Issue 10

## President’s Message

Cathleen Boivin, Co-President

It seems to me that this last decade of my life has been all about change and making progress. It’s a very different sort of progress from my teaching years when my life was defined by others in determining student success in many areas, such as standardized tests. I envisioned a post-school life as rather calm and generally uneventful, but fate intervened and nothing went as planned. I’ve now been retired for ten years which seems almost unbelievable, but unforeseen events have now shaped my life in very different ways.



Most of you know that in December 2023, a huge tree from our neighbor’s yard crashed into my house and we spent a year totally changing how we live and redefining what we value. At this point in my life, I realized that I had hung onto too many material things just because I had room for them. Seriously, I have a terrible book hoarding habit and, although it was not in my plans to ever return to teaching, I had a massive collection of history books I secretly admitted to myself I’d never open again. It took a lot of prodding and encouragement from my daughter to finally cull my collection to more manageable levels. While not espousing the level of parting with my possessions entirely (I’m far from the Marie Kondo ideals), I did rethink my position on excess objects occupying space in my life and home. I felt like I had really achieved something when we moved back into our house without some of the worldly goods I thought I had to have. Change and progress.

**President’s Message** *continues on page 2.*

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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*

We are now more or less settled back into our renovated home. My health is fairly stable and the ebb and flow of my usual life has resumed. It's now time to look forward to what comes next. Progress for me now is focused on what I would like to achieve in the coming years. I remain committed to Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI), enabling people to vote, and helping women achieve their potential. AAUW has been instrumental in helping me and many others to continue to make progress on these issues with ensuring that 51 percent of the population (women!) have equal rights and access to education, work opportunities, and health care. We can write postcards, call or write to our representatives, volunteer for Lobby Corps, etc. We have a major election in Virginia coming up in November so it's going to be very important that as many people as possible go to the polls and help determine our state's future. We all know that progress can be slow and often frustrating. But we also know that our country's future lies in how all of us, young and old alike, men and women, shape the future. We can't hang onto the misconceptions and biases of the past if we want a better world. If we can really commit to AAUW's mission, then we will have made progress.

AAUW has approximately 170,000 members and over 1,000 branches

And, some interesting facts about June: The month of June was named after the Roman goddess Juno (Hera in Greek mythology) who was the protector of women. In June 1983, Sally Ride became the first woman in space. In June 1993, Connie Chung became the second woman to co-anchor the evening news 17 years after Barbara Walter in 1976, and Janet Reno became the first woman Attorney General of the United States. From January 2021-January 2025, Kamala Harris was our first woman Vice President during the Biden administration and subsequently the Democratic candidate for the presidency.

Women still have a long way to go to achieve equality with men. Progress has been slow, but it's progress all the same. We joined AAUW to preserve the rights women have obtained since the early 20th century when we were first granted suffrage and it's up to us to keep making strides towards a more evenly balanced society in which ALL of its citizens contribute to a better world.

**Spring Fling – May 9**

Ann Sauberman, Spring Fling Coordinator

We had another very successful Spring Fling at the Springfield Golf and Country Club on May 9!

Thanks to Beth Boivin, a new member and co-coordinator, for inviting Juliana Valencia, an Emmy-winning reporter from the

NBC Morning Show. Ms.

Valencia shared many personal life experiences and then answered all our

questions about being a reporter in Washington D.C. It was a very engaging keynote address. The Silent Auction was not only fun, it was very successful. We had many wonderful gift cards, jewelry, handbags, and scarfs to auction. The Auction Committee and the Book Groups contributed creative and beautiful gift baskets filled

with an assortment of wonderful items. The 50/50 Raffle, organized by Judy Titterton, was a great success. Both the baskets and the raffle added new excitement to our auction.



As I have said many times, it takes a village to create a successful Spring Fling. Many thanks must go to all those who attended, donated auction items, or helped in the planning. I applaud the leaders who gave their time: Debbie Gilligan, Karen Flann, Sallie Williams led the auction; Sharon Draper, Ken Tighe, Rose Clark did all the Auction administration. Rose needs to be mentioned again for her tireless efforts in the tickets, program and nametags. Two more need a thank you; Deborah Dood created her beautiful floral centerpieces and Lisa Shumate spent hour pricing and arranging the vast amount of jewelry.

Thanks to those who sent in donations to help our fund raiser. In addition, Betty Marie Fields donated in honor of her husband Clifford Fields who recently passed away. All the people in the committees who helped this year and the businesses who contributed are listed in our program.

All photos by Sandra Lawrence.





50-50 Raffle winner, Debbie Gilligan, and Ann Sauberman, Co-President and Spring Fling Coordinator



Vivian Watts, State Delegate, 14<sup>th</sup> House District, and Juliana Valencia, News 4

## Membership Induction of Officers

Deborah Dodd, Debbie Gilligan, Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

We will induct the following members as officers for the next two years at our picnic on **June 1**:

- Ann Sauberman and Cathie Boivin will be returning as Co-Presidents
- Amy Crolius and Beth Boivin are stepping in as Co-Vice Presidents for Programs
- Sharon Draper will be returning as Treasurer in the hope we find someone for her to mentor

Irene McGhee will be mentoring Beth Boivin. Welcome, Beth.

## Membership Renewal Reminder

Deborah Dodd, Debbie Gilligan, Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

As we approach the end of the AAUW year, here is a reminder that it is time to renew your membership. It has been an event-filled year that has included excellent program meetings, a memorable Spring Fling and Silent Auction, and ending with the fun Picnic in the Park on June 1.

The 2025-2026 Membership Year will begin on **July 1**. The dues for the coming year are \$101.

National dues have increased by \$2 to \$74.

Virginia State dues remain \$15.

Springfield-Annandale Branch dues remain \$12.

If you have paid Lifetime Membership dues, your dues are \$27.

All dues are now totally tax-deductible.

You can renew online, using a credit card, by visiting [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org), signing in, and following the Renewal instructions. If you prefer to pay by check, you can complete the renewal form attached at the end of this newsletter. Send the form and your check, made payable to “Springfield-Annandale AAUW,” to Treasurer, Sharon Draper.

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

## Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

Our association with AAUW and AAUW-VA has been a source of friendship and engagement with like-minded women. As AAUW members, we also are committed to changing the conversation about equity in all realms including but not limited to education, STEM, voting rights, and remuneration for equal work. We are seeing a full-frontal attack on the public policy objectives that AAUW has long supported. Non-profit organizations themselves may find themselves becoming a target. Those who attended our 2025 State Conference heard that the high school Junior ROTC corps that was scheduled to present the colors, were told at the last moment that they could not participate after a review of AAUW’s website revealed (horrors!) that we supported DEI! This message came from higher authorities in the Department of Defense. This is what we are up against for the foreseeable future. Our public policy advocacy is more important than ever.

If you missed it, a recent message from AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell on the current assault on higher education is at the end of this newsletter.

## Get Out The Vote (GOTV)

We have critical elections this fall in Virginia. We will elect a new governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general. And every seat in the House of Delegates and the Senate will be up for election/re-election. Your vote is your voice!

### Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Virginia Elections

Early In-person voting is Friday, May 2 through Wednesday, June 14

Primary Election Day is **June 17**

### General Election

Early In-Person voting is Tuesday, September 9 through Saturday, November 1

Election Day is Tuesday, **November 4**

And make sure you are registered to vote! <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/view-your-info/>

## Reclaim Our Vote (ROV)

Thanks to all who responded with a request for postcards to write for Reclaim Our Vote. This year, ROV intends to send a postcard to every minority voter in Virginia. If you have not contacted me and would like to write some postcards, then do so as soon as you can. We will have access to addresses at the end of July with a goal of mailing postcards in September. Last year, our Branch mailed 500 postcards. Let's do it again this year!

## Two Minute Activist

Finally, are you signed up for Two Minute Activist? AAUW and women across the country and around the world need to hear your voice. <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist>

## Programs Report

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

Join us **June 4**, 7 :00 P.M., Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, for a Program Planning meeting. Here's your opportunity to provide input for suggested programs for 2025-2026.

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group meets **June 5** for a pot luck dinner and discussion of the book selections and reviewers for the coming year. Dinner is at 5:00 P.M. at Mussaret Sheikh's home.

## Morning Book Group

Book selections for the 2025-2026 reading year will take place on **June 12** at a luncheon at Deborah Dodd's home.

## Movies at Midweek

Bev Wise and Helen Cassidy, Movie Mavens

The next meeting of Movies at Midweek is **June 18**. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.

## BRANCH CALENDAR

|                     |                                      |                        |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| June 1, 12:00 P.M.  | Picnic at Occoquan Regional Park     |                        |
| June 4, 7:00 P.M.   | Programs Planning Meeting            | <a href="#">page 6</a> |
| June 5, 5:00 P.M.   | Evening Book Group – Pot Luck Dinner | <a href="#">page 6</a> |
| June 12, 12:00 P.M. | Morning Book Group – Pot Luck Lunch  | <a href="#">page 6</a> |
| June 17             | Primary Elections                    | <a href="#">page 6</a> |
| June 18             | Movies at Midweek                    | <a href="#">page 6</a> |
| July 1              | Pay your Membership Dues             | <a href="#">page 5</a> |
| November 4          | General Election                     | <a href="#">page 6</a> |

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### Famous Endings



Norma Desmond is to be taken by the police for the murder of screenwriter Joe Gillis but doesn't move until the press arrives — with cameras. Then, with her public waiting, she gives her final performance. It's a walk down her long staircase, all press frozen in time. She then says, "All right, Mr. DeMille, I'm ready for my close-up" and approaches the camera. Desmond continues to walk to the screen as the movie ends.

*Sunset Boulevard*

**Beth Boivin is your next *UPDATES* newsletter editor. Treat her well.**

**Buh bye, Judy Titterton**



SPRINGFIELD-ANNANDALE (VA) BRANCH

# HOW TO RENEW YOUR AAUW MEMBERSHIP

Springfield-Annandale Branch, Virginia  
JUNE 30, 2025– JUNE 30, 2026

To renew your AAUW membership, please:

1) Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org). You must enter your password. If you have forgotten yours or never established one, it is easy to choose a password at that point. Then click on Membership, Renew, then scroll down to National and you can enter your information to pay for National, State, and Branch Dues ONLINE and pay via your credit card.

OR

2) Fill out the information below and mail your check and this form to TREASURER: Sharon Draper, 6913 Pacific Lane, Annandale, VA 22003

-----**YES**, I want to renew MY AAUW membership for 2025-2026 (current membership expires on June 30, 2025. I am enclosing a check for dues as indicated below:

- \* \_\_\_\_\_ \$101 for renewing regular membership  
(*\$74 Association; \$15 State; \$12 Branch dues*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$27 for State and Branch dues (*I've paid life national dues.*)
- \$1480 for Paid Life National Membership dues
- \ \_\_\_\_\_ \$12 for a dual membership in another VA Branch

Make checks payable to: "Springfield-Annandale AAUW"

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

All dues are fully tax-deductible.

## MESSAGE FROM GLORIA BLACKWELL, CEO, AAUW

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.

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