

70 Years

# AAUW

Springfield-Annandale (VA) Branch

September 2025

## UPDATES

Volume 67, Issue 1

### ★ *From the President...*

Ann Sauberman, Co-President

As the Summer break comes to an end, I would like to join Cathie Boivin, Co-President, and welcome all Springfield - Annandale Branch members to start a new and exciting season. Thanks to both the membership Vice-Presidents, Deborah Dodd and Debbie Gilligan, we have five new members. On September 24, 2025, we will hold our first monthly meeting at the Pohick Library. I hope you all will attend and get a chance to meet our new members.



Our new program team, led by Amy Crolus and Beth Boivin, is planning many exciting and enlightening programs. One of their major themes is to highlight women who have non-traditional jobs and have broken into careers normally saved for men. This summer, I was excited to discover a very unusual woman who strived to succeed in a job reserved for men. On August 9, Jennifer Pawol, a baseball umpire became the first female umpire to work a regular season game in Major League Baseball. Previously, she had worked in the minor leagues for over ten years. Pawol's Major League debut started as the first-base umpire in the first game of Saturday's double header between the Atlanta Braves and the Miami Marlins and then as a third base umpire in the second game. On Sunday, with many female fans watching, she called pitches behind the plate in the final game of the series. Baseball critics stated that she did an excellent job in all three roles with a high percentage of accuracy. Pawol's success came 28 years after the National Basketball Association's gender barrier for game officials was broken and 10 years after the National Football League hired the first full-time female official. The question is always when will other women get the opportunity to break the glass ceiling and work in non-traditional roles and will they be accepted as equals.

Another example of a woman who broke the glass ceiling and worked in a non-traditional job was Francis Perkins. She served as the first Secretary of Labor under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt for 12 years. I read this amazing book, *Becoming Madame Secretary*, for our September meeting of the Springfield/Annandale Evening Book Group. Many of us have studied this remarkable woman in high school or college history classes, but as an AAUW member, I gained much more insight into a woman, who sacrificed and struggled to fight gender bias. She had to fight continually against discrimination, but through years of perseverance was able to accomplish important social advances like helping to create the Social Security system and fight against child labor. Although this detailed book tells a historical story, it is important to realize that women, not only were successful in the past, but are still fighting for equality.

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

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

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

#### **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.*

## From the President...

Continued from page 1

I encourage all of our members, to both ATTEND our interesting meetings and get INVOLVED in our projects and legislative activities to help promote the AAUW Mission, which states "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research." To further our mission, our branch has volunteered to write 825 postcards to help GET OUT THE VOTE for the 2025 Virginia Election. I want to encourage each of you to read our monthly updates filled with information and ways to get involved. I am looking forward to joining with you on September 24 and many other activities.

## June 2025: Branch Picnic and Officer Installation

On June 1, 2025, we installed our 2025-26 officers and had a wonderful time together celebrating our work as a branch in 2024-25.



### 2025-26 Elected Officers

#### Co-Presidents:

Cathie Boivin and Ann Sauberman

#### Co-Vice Presidents of Program:

Amy Crolus and Beth Boivin

#### Co-Vice Presidents of Membership:

Deborah Dodd and Debbie Gilligan

#### Secretary:

Judy Baldwin

#### Treasurer:

Sharon Draper

## Springfield-Annandale Celebrates 70 Years!

Our branch was organized in March of 1955 and received into the Virginia Division that Fall. Composed primarily of young college educated women at home with young children in a young community of newly built homes, it has evolved into an organization of women of many ages with a strong interest in current issues, particularly women's issues. Our branch has strongly supported AAUW's mission.

Go to <https://sprann-va.aauw.net/about/history/> to read *A History of the Springfield-Annandale Branch AAUW of Virginia 1955-2005*.

You may have noticed the updated branch logo with the "70 Years" ribbon added. We will be using that all this year as we celebrate this milestone!

## 2000-2025 History Documentation - Seeking Old Newsletters!

Judy Titterton, Acting Historian

As your current Board-appointed Historian, it is my intention to digitize existing historic files from 2000 to 2025, i.e., approved budgets, meeting minutes, newsletters, program and Spring Fling flyers, directories, and scrapbooks, then convert paper copies of these files into digital format and eventually post all the files on our branch website. I will post the items I am seeking in subsequent UPDATES.

I am starting with **Newsletters** and am seeking *digitized* copies of newsletters for these membership years:

**2003-04:** September 2003 and May 2004

**2004-05:** November and December 2004, January through May 2005

**2005-06:** September through December 2005 and January through March 2006

**2006-07:** September 2006

I am seeking *electronic (preferred) or paper copies* of newsletters for the following membership years:

**2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12.**

Thank you in advance for your help on this project.

## ✦ Program 2025-26: *Women Breaking Boundaries*

Amy Crolius and Beth Boivin, Co-Vice Presidents of Program

The programming this year is centered around the mission, vision and values of AAUW and our branch, and as Ann Sauberman shared in her President's Message, focused on highlighting women who are breaking stereotypical boundaries into professions and roles mostly occupied by men.

### September 24 at 7 p.m.: Pohick Regional Library



**Julia Cole** joined the Culpeper Police Department in 2013 after earning her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Studies from James Madison University. She served as a patrol officer until joining the Community Policing Unit in 2015. In 2021, she was promoted to Master Police Officer. As part of her daily duties, MPO Cole serves as the department's Public Information Officer, social media manager, and CPR/First Aid instructor; she handles community outreach and education, special event security, organizing police sponsored events, routine crash investigations, and serves as a patrol officer during staffing shortages. As extra duty assignments, she is the Lead Advisor for the Youth Law Explorer Program, a CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training instructor and a senior member of the department's Drone Team and Crash Reconstruction Team. MPO Cole sits on the Probation and Parole Re-Entry Committee and is a board member for the Free Clinic of Culpeper, in addition to serving on various seasonal event planning committees.

### October 29 at 7 p.m.: Pohick Regional Library

**Kate McDonald** represents clients across the healthcare industry on complex regulatory matters and high-stakes mergers, acquisitions, affiliations, and other investments. As partner-in-charge of McDermott's healthcare practice in Washington, DC, she provides strategic counsel on federal and state laws affecting health insurers and HMOs, with particular focus on downstream impacts for provider organizations, vendors, and reimbursement under federal healthcare programs. She has extensive experience navigating Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and Medicaid managed care programs, partnering with health plans, providers, technology start-ups, private equity funds, and retailers to benchmark risks, solve regulatory challenges, and structure transactions involving federal and state programs. Kate also advises on state risk-bearing regulations, complex reimbursement arrangements, investments in highly regulated healthcare sectors, and DC certificate of need (CON) laws. A contributing author to key healthcare law publications, she is a frequent speaker at leading industry forums and was the inaugural recipient of the McDermott Will & Emery Client Service Award in 2019.



### Other Program Dates for 2025-26:

November 19, 7 p.m. (Zoom) - Program  
Early December - Holiday Brunch/Lunch  
January 21, 7 p.m. (Zoom) - Program  
February 25, 7 p.m. (Zoom) - Program  
March 21, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Spring Fling  
April 22, 7 p.m. - Program  
May 30, 12 p.m. - Picnic



## ✦ Inclusion Committee Interest Meeting September 12

You are invited to join our branch's Inclusion Committee as we plan the 2025–26 Inclusion Awards, which recognize high school juniors for projects that foster inclusion in their schools and communities. Our planning meeting will take place on **Friday, September 12 at 7 pm** at Cathie Boivin's house in Burke. Please RSVP to Cathie at [cdboivin@gmail.com](mailto:cdboivin@gmail.com) if you'd like to attend. If you cannot attend, we welcome your thoughts and ideas by email.

The Springfield-Annandale Branch of AAUW has a long tradition of celebrating Inclusion. Each year, our committee partners with local high schools to circulate applications, review projects, and award scholarships. We honor these students at a program in the spring.

We extend our gratitude to Judy Baldwin, who chaired this group for many years, as well as past committee members whose dedication made this initiative possible. Please join us in shaping the future of the Inclusion Awards and continuing this meaningful tradition!

## ✦ Northern District Meeting November 1

The AAUW-VA Northern District Meeting will be held on **November 1, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.** at Pohick Regional Library. Shirley Marshall, author of *A Radical Suffragist in Washington D.C.* will be the guest speaker, followed by a business meeting to talk about upcoming events. *See the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.*

## ✦ 2026 AAUW Virginia State Conference April 18, 2026

The Northwest District is hosting the next AAUW-VA State Conference—the first conference of our second century. They have secured the venue so please Save This Date—**Saturday, April 18, 2026**, at the Drury Plaza Hotel Richmond in Glen Allen, VA 23060. There will also be pre-conference activities on Friday, April 17, 2026. Further information will be distributed as it is available on the [AAUW Virginia webpage](#).

## ✦ Membership Updates

Deborah Dodd and Debbie Gilligan, Co-Vice Presidents of Membership

We would like to welcome our six new members to the branch since June: Noha Hazzazi, Carol Grace, Ainsley Gottrich, Sonia Esteve, Carol Dabbs, and Karen Craft. We are happy to have you join us. **We now have 60 members!** The updated member directory will be sent to all members in September and printed copies will be available at the first program meeting in September.

### Let's Meet a Few of Our New Members!



**Ainsley Gottrich** has lived and traveled all over the world, is an animal advocate, volunteer extraordinaire, retired military spouse and a mother of 2 amazing sons! She has a Bachelor of Arts in Education, Human Services from George Washington University.



**Sonia Esteve** is a retired Fairfax County School Librarian/Media Specialist. Married for 53 years, she has three sons, two daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren. She has a B.S. from Radford and completed graduate work at Catholic University, George Mason, and UVA.



After a 35-year career at USAID, **Carol Dabbs** has stayed active in retirement through leadership roles with several organizations. She holds a B.A. in Spanish and French from Duke University and an M.P.H. in Health Policy & Management from UNC-Chapel Hill.



## Public Policy Update

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

### Reclaim Our Vote Initiative

Our branch is making a substantial contribution to Reclaim Our Vote's Get Out the Vote (GOTV) effort this year by writing 825 postcards to black voters in Virginia! For a historical perspective, we wrote 500 postcards last year and 300 the year before. We keep raising the bar!

We know that postcards do make a difference by increasing turnout among infrequent voters. Given the closeness of recent elections, even small increases in turnout can make the difference. So, thank you to our Postcard Warriors!

### Your Vote is Your Voice!

#### November 4, 2025 General Election:

Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates

Register to vote or update an existing registration:

- **Through Friday, October 24, 2025.**
- Register to vote or update an existing registration online using the [Citizen Portal](#).
- Voters may register and vote using a provisional ballot In-Person after October 24, 2025, through Election Day.
- Contact your [local registrar's offices](#) for more information.

Early, in-person voting period:

- **Friday, September 19, 2025 through 5:00 p.m., Saturday, November 1, 2025.**
- Contact your [local registrar's offices](#) for all early voting and [satellite location](#) information.
- Voter registration offices will be open for early voting on **Saturday, October 25, 2025.**

Apply for a ballot to be mailed to you:

- **Through 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 24, 2025.**
- Your request must be received by your [local registrar's office](#) by 5:00 p.m.
- Apply for an absentee ballot online using the [Citizen Portal](#).

See who is on your ballot by viewing the [candidate lists](#).

*N.B. The special election to replace Cong. Gerry Connolly, CD11, will be held on **Saturday, September 9, 2025**. Early voting is underway now.*

### Virginia Women's Conference November 15

The 13th Annual Virginia Women's Conference will be held Saturday, November 15, 2025 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at George Mason University. Visit [Senator Mark Warner's webpage](#) for more information.



## Candidate Forums For the Virginia House of Delegate Elections:

The League of Women Voters-Fairfax ("LWV") is sponsoring candidate forums for candidates running for the Virginia House of Delegates in our area. AAUW-VA is a co-sponsor of these events, which occur in September and early October. The LWV and AAUW urge you to tune in and hear the candidates explain their positions. Some of the events are virtual (via Zoom), and others are televised and will be viewable on Fairfax Public Access Television Channel 10.

AAUW volunteers are sought for the televised forums on **September 22, 29 and October 6**. See more information on the next page about dates, times and volunteer responsibilities.

# Candidate Forums For the Virginia House of Delegate Elections

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**THREE TELEVISED Candidate Forums Sponsored by the LWV are listed below.**

**AAUW Volunteers are sought for the following televised candidate forums.**

**EVENT: 7th & 15th Districts VA House of Delegates televised forum.**

**Date/Time: Sept 22, 8 pm-9pm**

Fairfax Public Access Television Channel 10

- District 7 Candidates: Karen A. Keys-Gamarra (D) and Cassandra Aucoin (R)
- District 15 Candidates: Laura Cohen (D) and Saundra Davis (R)

**EVENT: 18th District VA House of Delegates televised forum.**

**Date/Time: Sept 29, 8-9 pm**

Fairfax Public Access Television Channel 10

- District 18 Candidates: Kathy Tran (D) and Edward McGovern (R)

**EVENT: 6th & 8th Districts VA House of Delegates televised forum.**

**Date/Time: Oct. 6, 8 - 9 pm**

Fairfax Public Access Television Channel 10

- District 6 Candidates: Richard Sullivan, Jr (D) and Kristin Hoffman (R)
- District 8 Candidates: Irene Shin and Indira Massey (R) (subject to candidate confirmation)

***Q: What are a volunteer's responsibilities for a televised candidate forum?***

- The LWV would like one volunteer/per candidate forum from AAUW
- The arrival time is 7 p.m. for a televised forum starting at 8:00 p.m. The location is Fairfax Public Access Television Channel 10 Station, 2929-S Eskridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22031. Parking is available in front of the studio.
- Business casual attire is recommended, with comfortable shoes. Organization name badges are permitted.
- Do not wear paraphernalia or campaign gear and buttons. Individuals without a name badge will be provided one.
- The LWV will let you know specific tasks when the LWV sends out volunteers' instructions before the event. Possible assignments include: (1) Telephone Room: Records call-in questions with a League representative; (2) Conference room: Monitor campaign representatives and personal belongings. Also can watch the forum on a TV screen.

**To Volunteer, please contact :**

Lyn Johnson Lister, Director of Voter Services

LWV of the Fairfax Area

lyn.lister@lww-fairfax.org

703-309-4667

**Three Virtual (Zoom) Candidate Forums Sponsored by the League of Women Voters.**

*Volunteers are not needed for the following Virtual Candidate Forums.*

**EVENT: 9 and 10 Districts House of Del. Virtual Candidate Forum**

**Date/Time: Sept 9, 7-8 pm, ZOOM**

- District 9 Candidates: Karrie K. Delaney (D) and Nhan C. Huynh (R)
- District 10 Candidates: Dan I. Helmer (D) (pending agreement) and Davbid Woodrow Guill (R)

**EVENT: 14th Dist, House of Del. Virtual Candidate Forum**

**Date/Time: Sept 16, 7-8 pm, ZOOM**

- District 14 Candidates: Vivian E. Watts (D) and Eric Johnson (R)

**EVENT: 16th Dist House of Del. Virtual Candidate Forum**

**Date/Time: Sept. 25th, 7-8 pm, ZOOM**

- District 16 Candidates: Paul Krizek (D), Richard Hayden (R) and Shelly Arnold (Ind)



## Other Branch Activities

### Movies at Midweek

All branch members are invited to Cinema Arts theatre the **third Wednesday of the month** to see a film, followed by lunch at nearby First Watch.

Details of the selected film are sent via email to all branch members by the Friday of the previous week.

### Book Groups

All members are invited to join the branch book groups! The **evening book group meets via Zoom at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of the month** and the **morning book group meets in-person at 10 a.m. the second Thursday of the month**. The books have been selected for the year and the schedules are shared below.

Contact Cathie Boivin or Debbie Gilligan for more information about the evening group and Deborah Dodd or Wendy Cleland-Hamnett about the morning book group.

### Evening Book Group

September 4, 2025, *Becoming Madame Secretary* by Stephanie Dray and Marie Benedict

October 2, 2025, *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

November 6, 2025, *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman

December 4, 2025, *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali

January 8, 2026, *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles

February 5, 2026, *A Different Kind of Power* Jacinda Ardern

March 5, 2026, *Daughter of Fortune* by Isabel Allende

April 2, 2026, *Dinners With Ruth* by Nina Totenberg

May 7, 2026, *The Next Day: Transitions, Change, and Moving Forward* by Melinda French Gates

June 4, 2026, Potluck and Book Selection for 2026-27

### Morning Book Group

September 11, 2025, *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott

October 9, 2025, *The Devil's Teeth* by Susan Casey

November 13, 2025, *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel

December 11, 2025, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

January 8, 2026, *The Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies* by Alison Goodman

February 12, 2026, *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhorn

March 12, 2026, *Bear: A Novel* by Julia Phillips

April 9, 2026, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

May 14, 2026, *A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier

June 11, 2026, Luncheon and Book Selection for 2026-27

## Branch Calendar: September 2025

September 4, 7 p.m.	Evening Book Group - Zoom ( <a href="#">page 7</a> ).
September 11, 10 a.m.	Morning Book Group - In-person ( <a href="#">page 7</a> ).
September 12, 7 p.m.	Inclusion Committee Interest Meeting ( <a href="#">page 4</a> ).
September 16, 1 p.m.	Board Meeting
September 17	Movies at Midweek ( <a href="#">page 7</a> ).
September 24, 7 p.m.	Branch Program Meeting at Pohick Regional Library ( <a href="#">page 3</a> ).
September 24	UPDATES Articles Due for October Issue

## Other Opportunities

### McLean Branch AAUW 51<sup>st</sup> Used Book Sale

**Saturday, September 6, 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, September 7, 12 - 3 p.m.**

McLean Community Center  
1234 Ingleside Drive  
McLean, Virginia

Cash and credit cards accepted.  
Proceeds provide scholarships and local education awards.

Questions? [aauwbooksale2025@gmail.com](mailto:aauwbooksale2025@gmail.com)

**UPDATES Articles for October  
due September 24**





# 2025 White House Christmas Ornament Sale

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of State Dinners at the Executive Mansion

All proceeds go to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund which provides immediate funding for emerging challenges and opportunities

**\$24**

Features two of the sixteen State Services of White House China.

**Contact  
Susan Burk or  
Sharon Draper  
to order.\***

Each ornament has its own exclusive serial number that can be registered and authenticated.

Hand assembled, the ornament design is cut from delicate brass, etched, and printed with enamel ink and finished with 24-karat gold for the ultimate holiday shine.



Includes an illustrated booklet detailing 150 years of White House State Dinners and the history of White House State China Services.

Adorned with a red and gold twist cord for elegant hanging on your tree, it comes packaged in a beautiful keepsake gift box.

***Made in the USA - Designed, crafted, and packaged entirely in the United States.***



\*After order is confirmed, send a check made out to  
**Springfield-Annandale AAUW to:**  
**Sharon Draper**  
**6913 Pacific Lane**  
**Annandale, VA 22003**