

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

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*Candace and Susan*

### From the Co-Presidents

Since joining AAUW many years ago, it has come to my attention that many individuals could become more involved at the community, state, and national levels. However, most of us are just too busy with our own lives. I recently attended a meeting that listed a number of ways to become “a two-minute activist.” The following list, compliments of AAUW, reminds us of the many opportunities we have to make our voices heard:

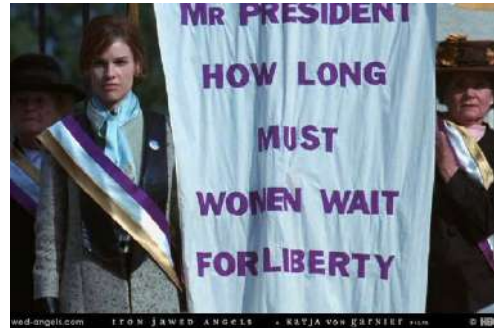
1. Eliminate systemic racism and sexism through changes to Virginia law and regulations.
2. Communicate with local, state and federal representatives and officials.
3. Stay alert for opportunities to engage on specific issues.
4. Ensure full public school funding and protect teachers from harassment and liability claims.
5. Write about important issues and send these articles to the newspapers.
6. Make childcare affordable and readily available for all families.
7. Stay alert for activities that AAUW-VA identifies, e.g., **Reclaim our Vote**.
8. Engage with local advocates and organizations, e.g., **Virginia Organizing**.
9. Stay informed by signing up for AAUW’s **Two-Minute Activist**.
10. Attend the Virginia AAUW State Conference; see page 3 for details.
11. Finally, become more involved in your local branch. Ask what you can do to help.

I retired after thirty-five years of teaching at the secondary, community college, and university levels. Some of the valuable lessons I learned by interacting with students were to find out what motivates them, to discover connections, and to personalize experiences -- i.e., let students tell their stories. These same educational strategies can be used by AAUW members to advance gender equity in our community. Try just one or two of these eleven options and you will be justly rewarded!

## Upcoming Branch Programs

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***Iron Jawed Angels***  
**Tuesday, March 7, 2023**  
**Gather at 6:30 PM**  
**RSVP required if attending**



Recognize Women’s History Month this year by viewing the 2004 film *Iron Jawed Angels*. We will screen the film at the home of Kr on her big screen television. Starring Hilary Swank as suffragist leader Alice Paul, the drama depicts the sacrifices that the suffragists of 1917 faced as they battled for the right to vote.

The film is good background for the branch field trip planned for next fall to the Turning Point Memorial

that honors the suffragists and the Lucy Burns Museum at the Occoquan Workhouse.

Seating at Kristin’s home is limited to about 15 so please RSVP immediately. A second showing at a later date is possible if necessary.

We will gather at 6:30 PM; the movie is about two hours running time. Bring snacks to share; Kristin will provide beverages.



**Big Branch Bash**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2023**  
**Starts 5:30 PM**

Branch co-presidents will host a potluck dinner for members and their guests on April 15.

We will start with drinks and appetizers beginning at 5:30, then serve dinner at 6:30. Drinks will be provided. Details to come later.

## AAUW of Virginia Annual State Conference

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**AAUW of Virginia invites you to join us  
in Williamsburg,  
the city of our founding, for  
Conference 2023!**



The Conference will be held in two parts. **PART 1** of the Conference will be held on **March 18 at the Holiday Inn & Suites Williamsburg – Historic Gateway in Williamsburg, VA from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**



For those who arrive on Friday, March 17, there will be an opportunity to socialize with friends from around the state or participate in an AAUW trivia night.

**PART 2**, the Annual Business Meeting, will be held virtually on March 25.

### **Part I: March 18, 2023**

Register now! Online [conference registration is here](#). Open the [conference brochure link](#) for full information, including the conference schedule, bios of speakers, and nearby hotels offering discounts for attendees.

Included in the sessions will be the Keynote Address; a discussion regarding the under-representation of girls in STEM fields; a public policy presentation on the future of K-12 education in Virginia; and our past state president, Caroline Pickens, sharing the work AAUW has done to promote the education and protect the rights of women and girls.

### **Part 2: March 25, 2023**

This is the 2023 AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting to be held VIRTUALLY on March 25. Registration information will be sent to members in early March.

## Recent Public Policy Events

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### January 4: Branch Program with Local Virginia State Senators

On January 4, State Senators Jennifer Boysko and Chap Petersen spoke to us on Zoom about the upcoming Virginia legislative session. The senators addressed topics of special concern, both AAUW

priorities and bills they plan to introduce.

The presentation was recorded and can be viewed [here](#).

### January 19: Lobby Day in Richmond

We thank for representing our branch on January 19 in Richmond to lobby the General Assembly on AAUW priorities. The twenty-five AAUW-VA advocates who attended were organized in teams of two to visit offices of eighty delegates and senators. In most cases they met with legislative aides and delivered briefing packets for the following AAUW priorities and related upcoming legislation:

- Salary history ban
- Workplace harassment
- Paid family and medical leave

- Education vouchers and tuition tax credits
- Reproductive rights.

Moving on to the Capitol, AAUW advocates split between attending the Senate or House session. They were introduced on the record in the first hour of each session and then applauded by the legislators.

Lobby Day was organized by Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden, AAUW-VA Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy.

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### Photos from Lobby Day



*Delegate Ken Plum spoke individually to before the opening session of the House of Delegates on January 19, 2023.*



## Photos from Lobby Day (continued)



*Some of the female delegates and AAUW members gathered on the House of Delegates floor before the opening session. .*



*AAUW members stood in the gallery balcony of the House of Delegates when recognized by the legislators. .*



### **From the Editor**

I have decided to retire as newsletter editor, having served five years in this position. The May/June issue will be my last.

This means we need another branch member to volunteer for this role. I use standard word processing software to produce the newsletters, and I know many of you are comfortable using a word processor. Also, I will always be available to help.

The work requires no special skills or software, just a willingness to collect the articles other members send

you and then to put them in whatever format you want. Another option is for two of you to work together as co-editors.

The September/October issue would be the first issue from the new editor.

Please consider this and contact me if you have questions. Contact our co-presidents, Candace Strawn or Susan Pauly, to volunteer. The contact information for all of us is on the last page of this newsletter.

## Interest Groups



Groups planning to meet in person may need to change to Zoom.  
Watch for an email closer to the meeting time to confirm the plans.

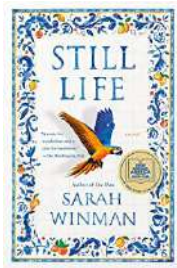
If you are new to a group, email the chair to receive email notices.

### Brown Bag Books

March 29, 1 PM

*Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* by Anderson Cooper

Cooper teams with historian and novelist Katherine Howe to chronicle the rise and fall of a legendary American dynasty - his mother's family, the Vanderbilts.



April 26, 1 PM

*Still Life* by Sarah Winman

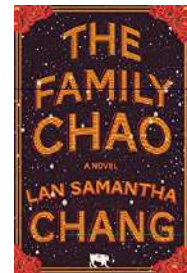
A beautiful, big-hearted story of strangers brought together by love, war, art, flood, and the ghost of E. M. Forster.

### Morning Literature

March 21, 9:30 AM

Susan will lead the discussion on *Trust* by Hernan Diaz.

Please let Lana know if you plan to attend.  
**(Important: You must wear a mask for this meeting.)**



April 18, 9:30 AM

**Host needed. Please contact Adrienne to volunteer.**

Kristin will lead the discussion on *The Family Chao* by Lan Samantha Chang.

## Interest Groups (continued)

### Great Decisions

March 19, 2 PM

#### China and the U.S.

For the past ten years, the United States and China have been locked in a competition for who has the greater global influence. One major point of contention is the status of Taiwanese sovereignty, which has become even more relevant recently with the possibility that Russia's invasion of Ukraine may prompt China to take similar action regarding Taiwan. How will the United States engage a China which is increasingly seeking to expand its sphere of influence?

April 16, 2 PM

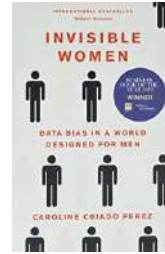
#### Economic Warfare

Waging economic warfare consists of a variety of measures from implementing sanctions to fomenting labor strikes. Such tools are utilized by states to hinder their enemies and, in the case of the United States, have been used as far back as the early 19th century. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, 2022, economic warfare has been the main means for the west to challenge Russia. How effective will these sanctions be at convincing Russia to cease its war?

### Nonfiction Book Group

March 6, 7 PM

*Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* by Caroline Criado Perez



Next date: May 8

*Been in the Storm So Long: the Aftermath of Slavery* by Leon Litwack

### Movie Meetup Group

We meet at Cinema Arts for the early show. Those who can stay afterwards have lunch together at First Watch.

Next dates: March 28  
April 25

The group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Please email the chair to be included on the distribution list.



### Branch Program Schedule, 2022-2023

September 10	10 AM	Annual Open House
October 11	7 PM	In Our Own Voice, with NAMI speakers
November 5	11 AM	Let's Move Forward
December 3	Noon	Annual December Lunch
January 4	7:30 PM	2023 Va. Legislative Preview
February 25	4 PM	AAUW Fund Raiser: Wine – Women - Word
March 7	6:30 PM	Viewing of <i>Iron Jawed Angels</i>
April 15	5:30 PM	Branch Potluck Dinner



Schedule is subject to change; future newsletters will include updates.

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### Vienna Area Branch Leaders, 2022-2023

**NOTE:** Each person's name is linked to her email address. Click the name to send an email.

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### 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 socioeconomic status.