
AAUW VIENNA CONNECTION

MAY 2024

[AAUW Vienna Area \(VA\) Branch](#)

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

For any questions, or for more information about anything in this newsletter, please contact viennaaaauw@gmail.com.

May Program Saturday, May 11 at noon

Please mark your calendars for our branch's **annual business meeting/election of new officers**.

We need your presence to achieve a quorum and finalize the elections.

What: Brown bag luncheon (the branch will supply dessert and drinks)

When: 12:00-1:30 pm on **Saturday, May 11**

Lunch will be followed by a brief business meeting and the election of new officers.

The nominees for Co-President(s) are Kate and Gail . The nominees for Co-Program VPs are Kris and Mary The nominee for Secretary is Kathy.

Thank you in advance for helping our branch be a success!

VOTE - The AAUW Open Membership Ballot

(We are a “get out the vote” organization, so please vote)

On April 3, 2024, AAUW sent each AAUW member an encrypted ballot email to vote on the Open Membership Proposal. The email came from “vote@simplyvoting.com” and may show up as sender “AAUW”. So check your email inbox and, *if the email is not there, check your spam/junk folder.* Those members without an email address on file or who have unsubscribed from all AAUW emails will receive a paper ballot by mail.

AAUW’s Board of Directors and Governance Committee have proposed to amend the AAUW Bylaws to open membership to “. . .any individual who supports AAUW’s purpose of advancing equity for women and girls . . .” To read AAUW’s rationale for this change and review the proposed amendments -- go to [PROPOSAL](#) Additional information is at the [OPEN MEMBERSHIP TOOLKIT](#)

In 2021, only 23% of our nationwide membership voted on that year’s version of this amendment. ***This is a membership change on which all members are encouraged to vote.***

On May 15th, online voting ends at 12:00 pm ET (noon) and the results will thereafter be announced on the AAUW website.

Membership and Dues

Is It Time to Renew Your Membership? It Depends.

By June 15, many of you – but not all – will receive reminders to renew your AAUW membership for the new fiscal year starting July 1. Expiration dates for our members range this year from June 30, 2024, to February 28, 2025, depending on when they joined. The reminder from AAUW will arrive before your membership expiration date, so there is no need to renew until you receive an email reminder. However, renewing as soon as you receive a reminder will make the renewal process easier for your officers.

How much are the dues?

Dues for most of you are again \$97, which covers the following:

- Vienna Area branch, \$10
- Virginia state, \$15
- AAUW national, \$72.

Life members pay only branch and state dues. Remember that the national dues are entirely tax-deductible if you itemize your deductions in 2025.

To renew online with a credit card.

Many of you use this method successfully to renew. If you have never tried, or if you tried and quit, I would be glad to try to help. I can send you a PDF file with screen shots and step-by-step instructions. We can go through the steps together on the telephone, and I can answer your questions as we go. Email me if you want to try this.

To renew by mailing a check.

Write the check for \$97 payable to AAUW Vienna Area. Mail it to me, and I will acknowledge receipt of the check when it arrives.

Please send me any questions you have about renewing.

INTEREST GROUPS

Tuesday Morning Literature Group

May 21: *The Years*, by Nobel Prize winner Annie Ernaux

We meet at members' homes beginning at **9:30am** for coffee and socializing, then begin the book discussion at 10am.

Watch for an email from Adrienne with the location.

Wednesday Brown Bag Book Group

May 29 1:00 pm

Necessary Trouble: Growing Up Mid-Century by Drew Gilpin Faust.

The former president of Harvard University looks back at her life especially during the civil rights era, changing roles for women and world events from 1950 to today.

Watch for an email from Susan with the location.

Non-fiction Book Group

May: *May 20 (third Monday special this time)*. 7pm

An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us,
Ed Yong

Meetings are *normally* held the second Monday at 7pm in alternate months. (*but not this May*)

GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM with the Foreign Policy Association

May 19th at 2pm.

Our topic will be: NATO's Future

Please email me if you are not on the Great Decisions distribution list and would like to be. We always welcome new AAUW members to our group.

We're looking forward to another interesting discussion!

The remaining 2024 topics are below:

Understanding Indonesia

High seas treaty

Pandemic preparedness

Movie Meet Ups Movie Meet Ups will be May 28 and June 25

The **Movie Meet Ups** group meets at Cinema Arts for the early show on the **4th Tuesday** of the month. The film is selected after we know what the choices are for that day. Those who can stay afterwards have lunch together at First Watch, in the shopping center.

Let Susan know if you would like to be on the email list. Just go to whichever movie you are interested in. Susan sends an email a week ahead, with the movie selection for the month.

Lobby Corps

Want to make your voice heard with Congress? Join AAUW Lobby Corps!

Lobby Corps gives you the tools and resources to amplify your voice and your impact. And, you get to do it with other gender equity advocates in your community. Lobby Corps is only a two-hour commitment once a month. We generally meet on Capitol Hill on the third Thursday of each month when Congress is in session. Volunteers receive in-depth information about our issues and are paired with experienced Lobby Corps members for office visits. Lobby Corps is AAUW in action!

Event: AAUW Lobby Corps Virtual Training

Date: June 4

Times: 5:00pm ET

Location: [Register on Zoom](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to policy@aauw.org. Or just call me at 703-509-3808 to chat about the possibility of joining.

Review of April meeting: Branch Spring Field Trip,

Turning Point Memorial

Nine members of the Vienna Area Branch of AAUW met at the Lucy Burns Museum at the Workhouse complex in Occoquan to hear a docent tell the story of the fight for the 19th Amendment for women's right to vote. Part of that struggle included the *Night of Terror and force feeding of some of the movement leaders at the women's prison.*

Following the visit, we drove to the nearby Turning Points Memorial, which recognizes the passage of the 19th Amendment and the many steps it took. The memorial was funded by organizations and individuals including Virginia AAUW

We enjoyed lunch and conversation at the Brickmakers Cafe. Many thanks to Julia for arranging this field trip.

Beyond the Vienna Branch

AAUW Alexandria Branch and Alexandria Library

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FORUM

May 11 11:00 am

ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY

4701 SEMINARY ROAD

SPEAKERS:

EVELYN CHUMBOW, SURVIVOR, DIRECTOR FOR THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGAL CENTER

ERICA REID, SENIOR ENGAGEMENT MGR, DEPT. OF HOMELAND SECURITY, BLUE CAMPAIGN

Recap of AAUW of Virginia 2024 Conference in Lynchburg

“Courage. Connection. Commitment.”

On April 13, three members of the Vienna branch attended the annual conference of AAUW of Virginia.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar – President of the University of Lynchburg speaking on Courageous Leaders

Ten Minute Toolkits topics included:

- Branch Essentials
- Cybersecurity for branches
- Legacy Circle
- Micro-aggression
- The afternoon program speaker was Meghan Kissell –AAUW Senior Director of Policy & Membership Advocacy speaking on Connection & Courage

The state board of AAUW of Virginia rotated among the tables for a Meet & Greet your State Board– on their Commitment to our Branches

Have you registered for the AAUW-VA 2024 Annual Business Meeting?

Think of this as Part 2 of the State Conference. It will be held via Zoom webinar on May 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. You must register in advance for the webinar and to receive the login information.

Register [HERE](#) or below.

At our Business Meeting, we will award the prestigious *2024 AAUW Woman of Achievement Award* to Anne Holton, the former Virginia Secretary of Education.

Holton also served as the seventh president of George Mason University, their first female president.

You will hear about the accomplishments of your AAUW-VA Board members as well as the state proposed Public Policy Priorities to be voted on in May. This event also will allow you the opportunity to meet this year's candidates for elected positions.

- Lane Stone for President
- Tess Evans for Vice President for Communications
- Susan Burk and Leslie Tourigny for Co-VP for Program
- Diane Schrier for Vice President for Public Policy

To attend, you must [REGISTER](#) in advance. *After registering*, you will receive the Zoom log-in information. The Business Meeting Program Book link will be emailed to you one week before the meeting.

The AAUW of Virginia Board members look forward to seeing you at the Business

Meeting.

Lane Stone, AAUW-VA President

Sarita Gregory, AAUW-VA Administrator

Branch Board Meeting Wednesday, May 8 from 5-7 pm.

The spring board meeting will be held at the home of Julia on **This is open to all branch members. Please let Julia know if you will attend.**

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.