
AAUW VIENNA CONNECTION

JUNE 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 viennaauw@gmail.com.

No Branch program in June. Check the section on Interest Groups to see what is continuing during the upcoming months.

Highlights of May Program and the Year in General

Our branch's **annual business meeting/election of new officers**.

The new elected officers are:

Co-President(s)

Co-Program VPs:

Secretary:

The Vienna Branch of AAUW has had a very productive year. First, we have sixty members and three of them are males. Second, we have had programs every month, which have been well attended. Two of the recent programs were especially popular: Unraveling the complexities of AI, and individuals from the State Department detailing how high school students can live with host families and study abroad. The former program was led by a George Mason University professor who explained how AI will affect our lives in the future. The latter was led by one of our members who works for the state department. She brought in students who have participated in their program and the people who worked with them

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

June 18: Annual Book Selection Luncheon **We will have one more meeting in July.**

Please email Adrienne with book suggestions for the group to read when activities start up again in September.

Watch for an email from Adrienne with the location **and the start time** for this special meeting.

Wednesday Brown Bag Book Group

June 26 1:00 pm **(This group will not meet in July or August)**

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

The story of Black and Jewish residents of the Chicken Hill neighborhood of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, in the 1920s and '30s.

Watch for an email from Susan with the location.

Non-fiction Book Group

The next meeting will be in **September**, for the book selections for the following four meetings

Meetings are *normally* held the second Monday at 7:00 pm in alternate months. Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May.

GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM with the Foreign Policy Association

Sunday, **June 9**, 2:00 pm

There will be no meeting in July or August and we will start meeting again on Sunday, September 15th at 2:00 pm.

June topic:

Understanding Indonesia

Despite its large size, Indonesia remains virtually invisible to most Americans. But as one of the world's largest democracies, the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, and as an economic driver of ASEAN, why does it fly below the radar? What are current issues in U.S.-Indonesian relations, and what role can the country play in Asia?

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:

High seas treaty

Pandemic preparedness

Movie Meet Ups Movie Meet Ups will be **June 25**

Movie Meet Ups will not meet in July or August.

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 and Public Policy

Nothing specific this month, but please check page 8 of our printable membership directory for contact information for our legislators. See this exhortation from page 8..

“Our volunteer lobbyists are more effective if the members write, call, or send e-mails and reinforce AAUW’s message. Your views on pending legislation are important and should be expressed.”

Patrick Henry Library is partnering with the Town of Vienna's Liberty Amendments Month committee to present the following panel discussion.

Liberty and the Press: A Panel on the Role of Regional Black Newspapers and Columns from Emancipation through the Civil Rights Era and Beyond

Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Vienna Community Center [120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna, VA 22180](#)

A Panel on the Role of Regional Black Newspapers and Columns from Emancipation through the Civil Rights Era and Beyond

This panel will take the form of a conversation between current Black journalists and two local historians on the wide variety of media directed to Black readers in Northern Virginia, their content, and their impact.

Learn how these newspapers and columns arose and how they served (and still now serve) to cover omissions from the broader, often white-centric media.

We will also learn how archives of these publications assist modern historians, genealogists, and others.

A registration link will be added soon at [Liberty Amendments Month](#)

Deb Smith-Cohen Asst. Branch Manager Patrick Henry Library Dsmit1@fairfaxcounty.gov

703-938-0405 x4

Beyond the Vienna Branch

AAUW-VA 2024 Annual Business Meeting

Part 2 of the State Conference was held via Zoom webinar **on May 4, 2024**. We awarded the prestigious *2024 AAUW Woman of Achievement Award* to Anne Holton, the former Virginia Secretary of Education.

The National AAUW Open Membership Ballot

The following is reprinted from an email National AAUW sent to members:

The 2024 AAUW election is now complete and we are grateful for all those who took the time to vote. Congratulations to Melissa LaDuke, Dianne Owens, Sona Pancholy, and Christine Schmitz on their election to the AAUW Board!

On behalf of the AAUW Board of Directors, we are disappointed that the initiative to open AAUW's membership did not pass.

We understand that this outcome may feel exclusionary to some. But AAUW's history is one of continual change and growth, even in the face of challenges. That same resilient spirit must guide us now as we seek to fulfill AAUW's purpose to advance equity for women and girls.

There are many ways to engage with AAUW and support our mission beyond membership. Please encourage members and non-members alike to engage with us — to become [Two-Minute Activists](#), to attend our webinars and events, to apply for a [fellowship or grant](#), and to share the information and resources from our [website](#), which support women's economic empowerment.

The AAUW Board of Directors is committed to AAUW's future and to strengthening the connection with all our members and our community of branch and state organizations. We can all do more to support AAUW's efforts — and we will won't stop working for an equitable future for women and girls.

Julia T. Brown, Esq.
Board Chair, 2017-2024

Cheryl Sorokin
Board Chair, 2024-2025

**Upcoming AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference in Richmond Sep. 27-29, 2024
“Empowering for Equity”**

Connecting Voices from the Everglades to the Northern Border

Meet with AAUW members from:

Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, DC.

Topics include:

Standing Against Hate

Generative AI: The Evolution of Machine Learning and Why It Matters

Education Challenges Especially for K-12 Public School

Choose workshops from trending topics such as:

Title IX

The Struggle for the Right to Vote for All in the United States

ERA: The Fight Continues

Ending Period Poverty

Ranked Choice voting

Location: Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center

1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059

Nearby Attractions:

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

James River Cellars Winery

Richmond National Battlefield Park

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Children's Museum of Richmond
Crossings Golf Course

To register:

<https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com>.



Empowering for Equity



Join Us!
for the

AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference

Connecting Voices from the Everglades to the Northern Border



September 27th–29th, 2024

Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center
1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059



Hotel Amenities

- The Tavern Bar & Grill
- The Glen Restaurant
- Fitness Center
- Free Wifi
- Room Service
- Free parking

Nearby Attractions



- Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
- James River Cellars Winery
- Richmond National Battlefield Park
- Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
- Children's Museum of Richmond
- Crossings Golf Course



Register below:

<https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com/>



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.