



Vienna Area (VA) Branch

<https://vienna-va.aauw.net>

**FEBRUARY / 2025**



***FEBRUARY VIENNA BRANCH MEETING***

**Patrick Henry Library  
Saturday, February 8, 2025  
3:00pm (Doors open at 2:30pm)**

***Local Author Lisa Munoz Sheds Light on Challenges Faced by Women in Science***

Lisa Munoz will discuss her book, *Women in Science Now*, which documents the obstacles women working in science face and also offers perspectives on how to make science more equitable and inclusive for all. Ms. Munoz's book won a Silver Medal in the Social Change and Social Justice Category at the 2024 Nautilus Book Awards. This program is free and open to the public.

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***BEYOND THE BRANCH***

***TIME SENSITIVE***

***AAUW Proposed Bylaws, Governance, and Dues Proposals***

On January 8, 2025, the AAUW Board of Director posted to the AAUW website and distributed an email requesting membership comments on the following proposals to be voted on by the membership beginning in April 2025. **Membership comments can be submitted through the links below or on the AAUW website until January 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

1. Dues [Click here](#)
2. Bylaws [Click here](#)
3. Public Policy Priorities for 2025 - 2027 [Click here](#)

**Dues Changes**

The Board of Directors advise that the Board will consider a \$5 per year increase in dues from 2025-2029 because member dues have not kept pace with the cost of supporting AAUW's mem-

bership and the national office. Thus, by 2029, the national AAUW dues would have risen to \$97 from the current \$72.

### National Bylaws Changes

The Board of Directors is recommending three changes to the AAUW national bylaws, none of which would require changes to branch or state bylaws. The proposed amendments would revise language:

Article V Section 2 allowing the Board, at its discretion, to extend the Board term of a Chair who has one year remaining in the two-year Chair term.

- Articles VI, VIII, and IX providing, at the Board's discretion, for Vice Officers and Vice Committee and Task Force Chair positions adding flexibility to leadership structures and succession planning.
- Article IX section 4 providing for removal of a specific date for transition of Committee Chairs to allow for smoother transitions from term to term.

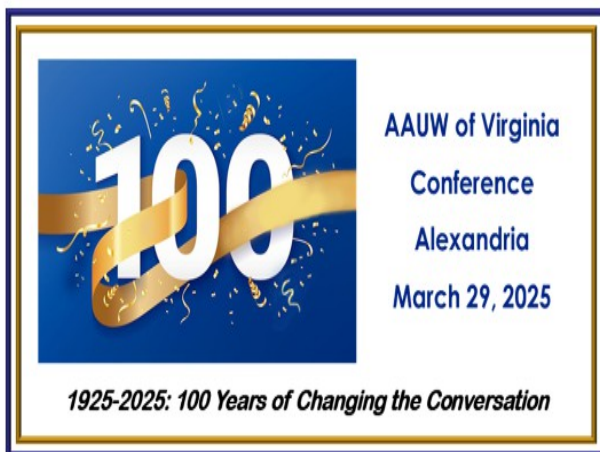
### Public Policy Priorities Changes

The Board of Directors is recommending changes to the Public Policy principles and priorities. While the principles would continue to emphasize core values regarding education, economic security and social justice, the proposal would remove issues that, while valuable and important components to equity, go beyond the scope of AAUW's focus on higher education and are so broad as to not provide guidance on the types of policy approaches that would be in line with AAUW's mission.

The proposed policy priorities for federal advocacy focus on equity in higher education and were chosen based on critical need, political viability, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership.

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### PLAN AHEAD . . .



### Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria

Preconference activities: March 28, 2025

Guest Room Reservations (888) 236-2427  
Code: AAUW  
DbI/DbI - \$159 per night plus tax including full breakfast for up to two persons.

Rate is also available for three days before/after March 28 and 29 on a space available basis.

## ***RAISING OUR VISIBILITY AND DIVERSITY WILL RAISE OUR VOICE***

### ***Last Call for Volunteers!***

The AAUW has been a powerful voice for women's equity in education, the workplace, and human. Our voice is made stronger through civic involvement and greater visibility in the community of branch members to examine the issues of community visibility and diversity and to make suggestions for addressing both of these issues.

**The team will meet only three times for no more than 90 minutes each time.** The plan—which may be adjusted for team member availability—is to meet on three successive weeks in February. Team members will generate ideas and assess which ones would be most fruitful in terms of results, level of effort and cost. Their conclusions will be presented to the Board for further consideration.

**This effort needs your participation!** It is a vital next step in assuring the continued vitality of our branch.

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## ***PUBLIC POLICY***

### ***Annual Lobbying Day in Richmond***

Despite bitter cold weather, 26 AAUW members from branches across the Commonwealth gathered in Richmond on January 16 for the annual AAUW Lobby Day.

Priority issues discussed were bills relating to public school funding, paid sick leave, maternal health, and constitutional amendments for abortion rights and voting rights restoration.

Working in teams, members visited approximately 46 offices, meeting in many cases with their elected officials. Kristin met with her delegate David Bulova and the legislative assistant for Senator Salim. Suzanne met with Senator Boysko and Delegate Sullivan. They also visited other officials with their lobbying partners before going to the visitors' galleries in the Capitol to be introduced.

Our law makers are familiar with these visits from AAUW, and they continue to welcome their constituents and our input.

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## ***SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS***

### **Tuesday Morning Book Group**

Socializing: 9:30am Book discussion: 10:00am - 11-11:30am. No meeting in the month of August.

**And a reminder:** We still need hostesses for **March 18** and **April 15**. Please let me know if you can host one of those meetings.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 9:30am – 11:30am.**

**Book: *Hello Beautiful***, by Ann Napolitano. Discussion leader will be Julia Williams.

"William Waters grew up in a house silenced by tragedy, where his parents could hardly bear to look at him, much less love him. So it's a relief when his skill on the basketball court earns him a scholarship to college, far away from his childhood home. He soon meets Julia Padavano, a spirited and ambitious young woman who surprises William with her appreciation of his quiet steadiness. With Julia comes her family; she is inseparable from her three younger sisters: Sylvie, the dreamer, is happiest with her nose in a book and imagines a future different from the expected path of wife and mother; Cecelia, the family's artist; and Emeline, who patiently takes care of all of them. Happily, the Padavanos fold Julia's new boyfriend into their loving, chaotic household. But then darkness from William's past surfaces, jeopardizing not only Julia's carefully orchestrated plans for their future, but the sisters' unshakeable loyalty to one another. The result is a catastrophic family rift that changes their lives for generations. Will the loyalty that once rooted them be strong enough to draw them back together when it matters most?"

***March Book: Short Stories by Flannery O'Connor and Alice Munro, for March 18.***

At our March meeting we will discuss short stories by Flannery O'Connor and Alice Munro. Please focus on these stories.

O'Connor: "A Good Man is Hard to Find" and "Good Country People" (Both are in the collection "A Good Man is Hard to Find" and The Complete Stories).

Munro: "Friend of My Youth" and "Menesteung" (Both are in the collection "Friend of My Youth" and the Selected Stories with the foreword by Margaret Atwood).

### **Brown Bag Book Group**

Normal Schedule: Last Wednesday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00pm. No meeting in the months of July and August.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 1:00 – 3:00pm**

**Book:** *Absolution* by Alice McDermott.

In Saigon in 1963, two women form a wary alliance as they balance the era's mandate to be "helpmeets" to their ambitious husbands with their own inchoate impulse to "do good" for the people of Vietnam.

**March Book:** *This is Happiness* by Niall Williams for March 26.

### **Nonfiction Book Group**

Normal Schedule: Second Monday every other month at 7:00pm

**Next Meeting:** **Monday, March 10, 2025 7:00pm**

**Book:** *The Situation Room* by George Stephanopolis.

**May book:** TBD

Suggestions are welcome.

### **Great Decisions Program with the Foreign Policy Association**

Normal Schedule: Third Sunday of each month from 2:00 – 4:00pm. No meeting in the months of July and August, November and December.

**Next Meeting:** **February 16, 2025 2:00 – 4:00pm**

You will receive a reminder about a week before the meeting.

**U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy**

Author: Daniel Drezner

Under President Biden, the U.S. has advanced new ideas about trade, technology, industrial policy, competition with China, and the organization of the world economy. For most of the postwar era, the U.S. has tied its global leadership to cooperative agendas aimed at creating a more open-world trading system, but that has apparently come to an end. What are America's options and opportunities as a leader of the world economy? How will America's "foreign policy for the middle class" and strategic competition with China impact its leadership role? How can the post-war rules and institutions of the world economy be made safe for economic nationalism and great power competition?

if you need information on how to obtain materials for this coming year's topics.

If you do not regularly get meeting reminders and would like to, please notify Connie. The group always welcomes new participants!

### **Movie Meet-ups**

Normal Schedule: Fourth Tuesday of the month. No meetings in July or August. Please contact Susan to be included on the distribution list.

**Next Meet-up: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 for the early show**

**Where:** Cinema Arts Theater

Film is selected when the theater publishes its films and schedules on its website. Those who can stay afterwards have lunch together at First Watch, in the shopping center. Group Coordinator will convey this information in a reminder email.

### **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.

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