

SEPTEMBER / 2025



WELCOME BACK AFTER THE SUMMER

As we start our new season, please note our appreciation of and thanks to Kathy who has been editing the newsletter for the past year and will continue for the upcoming fiscal year. We receive nice comments about the newsletter, but since Kathy is behind-the-scenes, we want to make sure she gets the recognition.

Speaking of “behind-the-scenes,” while Sandra no longer serves as our Finance Officer, she continues to update our website.

With the exception of new board member, Steve, who is replacing Sandra as Finance Officer, our same board will be continuing.

To complete the changes and additions, Aimee has agreed to handle publicity for our programs. No one was in charge of this function last year, and Aimee agreed to step in.

We have all have been working during the summer to get off to a good start before our September 6th Open House.

Don’t overlook the nice write-up later in this newsletter on our branch’s Liberty Amendments Month participation

***Co-president, Vienna Area Branch
Co-president, Vienna Area Branch***

OPEN HOUSE

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME!

Saturday September 6th 2:30-4:00 pm

Oakton Library Meeting Room
10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton

ENJOY our Branch's new program year by being part of our annual Open House, when we welcome members back from vacation and greet potential members. Representatives from each interest group will be present to describe their activities and will bring displays about their group.

PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS who may be interested in joining! An associate degree, RN, or higher degree is required to join. National AAUW dues are half price during this event. This is a great bargain for new members and for those who have not been AAUW members for at least two years.

INTEREST GROUP LEADERS should attend or send another member to discuss their group while our guests tour the displays. Please update your posters to show your recent or upcoming activities. We would appreciate your arriving at 2:00 pm to help with setup.

This is our Branch's major new member outreach event. We hope to attract many visitors and to gain several new members. Please make every effort to participate!

Questions? Contact Co-vice-presidents for Membership Becky and Julia

AAUW VIENNA AREA SUMMER ACTIVITY

Liberty Amendments Celebration with the Town of Vienna

From the Town of Vienna website: "The Town of Vienna initiated Liberty Amendments month in 2021 after Juneteenth was declared a state holiday....The month commemorates the passage of the 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendments, which granted full rights to citizens who were previously excluded from the U.S. Constitution. "

For five summers the Town of Vienna has held activities in support of the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th amendments to the Constitution (The Liberty Amendments). Kristin has been instrumental in encouraging branch volunteers to participate, as this gives us a chance to support the town and brings recognition to our branch.

In the past we have participated by producing a reader's theater production of "Failure is Impossible," in giving Book Talks for Tweens and Teens, reading to middle schoolers, and

joining the reading of the foundational document's amendments on July 4th at the Vienna Community Center.

This year the First Baptist Church launched a new event to kick off the month: The Liberty Amendments Parade. The Town invited AAUW Vienna Area to host and our branch joined the parade with a "float" (truck) representing the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Again, Kristin attended zoom planning sessions, worked with the float coordinator, and organized the volunteers. Laurie, Aimee, and Kris rode in the truck wearing suffragette sashes. A replica of the Statue of Liberty wearing a sash rode with them, and suffragette banners flew from the sides. Our AAUW sign was on the back of the truck, and banners with "19th Amendment" were on the sides of the truck. There was a lot of behind-the-scenes activity before the parade. Steve and Kris helped to retrieve the Statue of Liberty from a kind citizen's garden, took it to Dick and Aimee's van to get it to the parade truck the next day, and then reversed trip after the parade. Friends of Vienna AAUW volunteered and drove the actual parade truck. All participants had to meet at the loading site at 8:00 am to decorate the float. Several branch members navigated the Vienna traffic, came out to watch the parade, and congregated later at the home of Susan to celebrate a successful event.

Then on July 4th, 15 members and two spouses joined the meaningful round-robin reading of America's foundational documents. A special treat this year was the reading by The Rev. Dr. Vernon C. Walton of Frederick Douglas's speech, *What is the Fourth of July to the Negro?* Vienna Area Branch of AAUW was one of the hosts for the reading.

SAVE THE DATES **(Chronological)**

October Branch Meeting

Thursday, October 9th 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30)
Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton

Is America at a turning point? Are laws and policies we worked for in danger of being irreversibly lost? How is AAUW responding to this moment?

Meghan Kissell, AAUW National Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy, will speak about the activities and tools AAUW is developing to protect previous policy progress and to advance issues that are part of the organization's mission. She brings more than 20 years of experience to her work leading AAUW's non-partisan, mission-driven public policy efforts at the federal level. Her work also supports the grassroots advocacy work of AAUW's membership network.

Questions? Contact Kris and Mary, Co-vice-presidents for Program

McLean Branch 51st Used Book Sale

September 6th 9:00 am– 6:30 pm

September 7th -- Noon – 3:00 pm

McLean Community Center.

For more information contact: AAUWBookSale2025@gmail.com. Funds are used for their scholarship program.

The Northern District Meeting

(Vienna, Falls Church, McLean, Reston-Herndon, Alexandria, Arlington, Mt. Vernon, Springfield-Annandale, Manassas, Woodbridge)

November 1st Noon - 2:30 pm

Pohick Regional Library,

6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke.

Shirley will be talking about her book, A Radical Suffragist in Washington D.C. The book features letters from Elizabeth Kalb Green who worked and lived at the National Woman's Party Headquarters from 1918 to 1921. Her book will be available for purchase. After Shirley's talk, we will have a short break and then a business meeting where branches can talk about upcoming events.



Virginia Women's Conference

November 15th = 8:00 am-3:00 pm

The Johnson Center, George Mason University
4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA

Senator Mark Warner invites citizens to the Annual Virginia's Conference. AAUW will once again have a table at the conference. The conference was highly recommended by an AAUW member who attended last year in Roanoke.

Click [here](#) for information on registration.

Email AAUW-VA Public Policy VP, Diane Schrier, if you can help out,
Diane.schrier@gmail.com.

Holiday Lunch and Artemis House Fundraiser

December 6th at Noon

Olive Garden Restaurant
8133 Leesburg Pike, Vienna

The Vienna Area Branch members will meet to celebrate this festive season and to continue its decades of supporting women who turn to Artemis House for assistance when they face challenges in their lives.

AAUW of Virginia Meeting

April 18, 2026

Drury Plaza Hotel Richmond
11049 West Broad Street, Glen Allen, VA.

There will also be pre-conference activities on Friday, April 17, 2026.

AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference

September 25-27, 2026

Lancaster, PA

Members from branches from Florida up through Massachusetts.

PUBLIC POLICY

Branch Service Project

Branch members had a very successful and fun postcard writing party on August 12th in which 12 branch members addressed and wrote 219 postcards to help get out the vote this fall. We got the addresses and script from the Reclaim Our Vote campaign and urged potential voters to remember to vote as well as how to get voting information for their own precinct. The script is nonpartisan but urges the voter to think about issues such as healthcare, education, and civil rights. Altogether our branch will send out 300 cards in September, and Virginia AAUW will send thousands!

Turn your voice into action. Volunteer with AAUW's Lobby Corps!

For over 50 years, AAUW's Lobby Corps has brought our mission directly to Congress—advocating for policies that advance equity for women and girls. Volunteers head to Capitol Hill

about twice a month on Thursdays, and you can participate as often as your schedule allows. If you are interested in participating, contact Leslie Manning for more details and information on training as an AAUW lobbyist.

Questions? Contact Public Policy Chair, Leslie

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Tuesday Morning Book Group

Group Coordinator: Adrienne

Normal Schedule: Third Tuesday of each month.

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 16th 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Where: Home of Gail

Please let Gail know if you will be attending.

Book: *The Little Drummer Girl* by John Le Carré

Haunting and deeply atmospheric, John le Carré's *The Little Drummer Girl* is a virtuoso performance and a powerful examination of morality and justice.

Gail Rosner will facilitate the discussion.

Brown Bag Lit Group

Group Coordinators: Susan Voss susanlvoss@gmail.com and Betty Leadley ealeadley@aol.com

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 25th 1:00 – 3:00pm

Where: Home of Corrine

Please let Corinne know if you will be attending.

Book: *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar

Hollywood auctioneer Emsley Wilson finds her famous grandmother's diary while cleaning out her New York brownstone, and the pages are full of surprises. However, the diary really was

really written by Johanna Bonger, sister-in-law of Vincent Van Gogh. The story captures how she introduced his legacy to the world following the death of Vincent and his brother Theo.

Christy will facilitate the discussion.

Non-fiction Book Group

Group Coordinator: Jean, or text to

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

Next Meeting: September 8st 7:00 pm

Where: Home of Kris and Steve

Please let Kris and Steve know if you will be attending.

Book: *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960's* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Great Decisions Program with the Foreign Policy Association

Group Coordinator: Connie

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

When: September 21st 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Where: Home of Jean

Please let Jean know if you will be attending.

You will receive a reminder from the Great Decision's chair about a week before the meeting.

Topic Number 7: AI and American National Security!

The AI revolution is the leading edge of a larger high-tech revolution which promises to transform the world. Experts argue that international cooperation is needed to expand the opportunities these new technologies hold while protecting societies from their dangers. What are the key policy debates in this area, and what are the opportunities and limits on global AI rules of the road? How will the AI revolution impact American national security? What are its policy options to secure the benefits of AI and guard against its dangers?

Please contact Connie, if you need information on how to obtain materials for the 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

Group Coordinator: Susan

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

When: September 23rd the early showing

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.

FOR STRESSFUL TIMES. . .

Be a participant, not an observer.

Bloom where you are planted.

“Start where you are, Use what you have, Do what you can.”

Arthur Ashe

Note: I have found attribution of this quote also given to Theodore Roosevelt. Regardless of the attribution, the thought is a good guide for these times.

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.
