



BRANCH MEETINGS

OCTOBER MEETING

Who: Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy, AAUW National
When: **Thursday, October 9, 2025**, 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm)
Where: Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean **[Note new location]**

How AAUW Influences Public Policy Decisions and How You Can Help

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?

will speak to us 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.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Who: Chief Information & Technology Officer, Fairfax County Public Schools
When: **Tuesday, October 28, 2025** (*Date chosen on availability of meeting location.*)
7:00pm - doors open at 6:30pm
Where: Vienna Community Center Auditorium, 120 Cherry Street. SE, Vienna

How Artificial Intelligence Is Being Used in Our Schools.

This program will focus on the current use of and future prospects for artificial intelligence in Fairfax County Public Schools

Questions? Contact Co-Vice Presidents,

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME to **our newest member**, . Patricia joined after attending our Open House a few weeks ago. Some of you met her then and the rest of us look forward to getting to know her. Patricia, we hope you'll find some groups you may want to try out after reading this newsletter.

Noha Hazzazi joined our branch over the summer. We have yet to meet her in person, but I know you will welcome her when she joins in our activities. We had many of our members renew this summer and we are waiting for just a few more renewals.

We hope our members will continue to invite prospective members to our upcoming program meetings.

Information on both new members appear in the recently distributed Branch Directory.

Questions? Contact our Co-vice presidents for Membership

FY 26 BUDGET

At its September 5th meeting, the Board approved a proposed budget for the year from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The plan was derived from requests from various committee chairs and officers, and from past budgets.

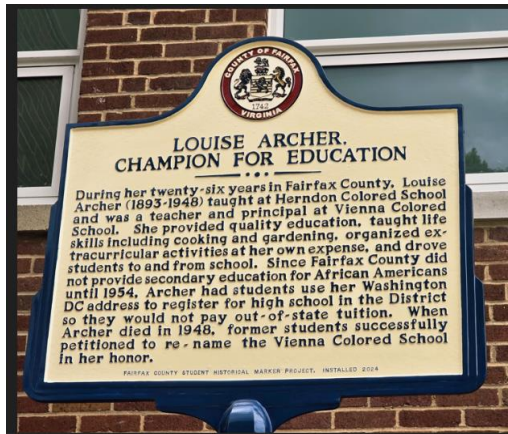
This year's budget assumes a small decrease in membership with consequent reduction in dues revenue. The income is composed of branch dues and fundraising undertaken for the AAUW National office and its charities. Note that \$50 has been allocated for the costs of fundraising for the national organization.

Expenses are classified into those associated with community involvement, such as Liberty Amendments month or public programs and those pertaining to the management of AAUW at both the local and national level.

The new budget is summarized in the table below. Any shortfall that may occur can be covered by the Branch's current assets. Members may request more information at any time during the year by contacting the Co-presidents or Finance Officer.

Questions? Contact the Finance Officer

Operating	Income FY 26		
	Branch Revenue		
		Branch Dues	
		Grants	
	Revenue for Others		
		Fundraising	
		Less Expenses	
	Total Income		
Operating	Expenses		
	Community Involvement		
		Public Policy	
		Liberty Amend-ment Month	
		Reading Program	
		Program Com.	
		Get Out the Vote	
		Other Special Project	
	Subtotal		
	Branch Admin		
		Co-Presidents Funds	
		Membership VP	
		Finance Officer	
		DEI	
		Liability Ins.	
	AAUW Admin		
		Va Conference Attendance	
		Va Conf. Ad	
		Reg Conf. Regis.	
		Reg Conf. Ad	
		No.District dues	
	Subtotal		
	Total Expenses		



VIENNA AREA BRANCH MEMBER, SPEAKS AT HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR LOUISE ARCHER

The AAUW Vienna Area Branch has had a long relationship with the Louise Archer Elementary School and interest in the history of its founding principal Louise Archer. When Nadine was a teacher at the school in 2007, she assisted the Vienna Area Branch to hold a branch program on the remarkable story of

Louise Archer and the elementary school named in her honor. Nadine later joined our branch. In 2019, Nadine arranged a program on *Vienna's Vanishing Black History* that again included the role of Louise Archer in the community. This past March, the speaker at Nadine's AAUW Fundraiser for the branch provided a program on *Celebrating Louise Archer: The School and the Woman*.

As a former teacher at Louise Archer Elementary School, our member Nadine James presented a moving speech at the September 6th Fairfax County Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony in honor of Louise Archer. Louise Archer (1893-1948) was honored for having fought for quality education for African American students in Fairfax County against the backdrop of segregation and racial inequality. She was the principal of the Vienna Colored School which was renamed in her honor as a testament to her enduring legacy.

This was the last of six historical markers honoring contributions of Black/African American community members that had been initiated by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to help ensure a more comprehensive and inclusive telling of Fairfax County's diverse history, including the [Black/African American experience](#). Among others, the event was attended by Mayor of Vienna, Hunter Mill District Representative on the Fairfax County Board, historian and former teacher, and many former students, parents of students and teachers, from the community.

I and other members of the audience at the dedication ceremony at The Louise Archer Elementary School were clearly moved by Nadine's emotional description of what it meant to her to be a teacher at the school, particularly knowing the reality of the circumstances that Louise Archer overcame in order to provide an education to children in this area and in Washington, DC. Following is Nadine's special presentation.

I want to thank the organizers of today's event for the opportunity to speak. My name is Nadine and I taught at Louise Archer. As I began putting my thoughts down to share with you today, I asked myself, how do I sum up my years as a teacher here. It didn't take me long to realize, when I began teaching here, I was now part of someplace very special. Louise Archer, is the school where I taught long enough to witness one of my second students join the staff. Louise Archer is where

kindergarteners leave after sixth grade and years later return as parents and enroll their own children as kindergarteners. There aren't many schools that have a story like ours.

My introduction to Louise Archer, the educator, actually began when my first principal, Judy would come to each classroom and tell the story of Louise Archer at the beginning of each school year. It was a beautifully dramatic story about how Louise Archer would drive from Washington, DC each day through the streets of Vienna and bring the black children to this building to learn. My students would listen intensely as she told the story and when Mrs. was finished she always ended with "and that's why we're the best school in Fairfax County."

Let us not forget that this part of town was inhabited by Vienna's black community. Mrs. Archer's Model T traveled when dirt roads were the norm and sidewalks were non-existent. The reality was black children had to walk long distances to get here because there was no County transportation available to them. But I'd like to think that once they arrived students knew it was a very special place no matter how modest it was.

I left Louise Archer to serve as a reading specialist at another school, but Louise Archer will always have a special place in my heart. I didn't choose Louise Archer. This wonderful school chose me. And boy am I glad she did.

AND DON'T FORGET



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,



AAUW Vienna Holiday Lunch and Gift Card Collection for Artemis House
Saturday, December 7th at 12 Noon
The Olive Garden Restaurant, 8133 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner, VA

You are invited to get together for socializing at the annual AAUW Vienna Area December Lunch that will be at **The Olive Garden Restaurant** on Route 7 in the Tyson's Corner area. Please invite friends and your significant other to join us at this nice event. We will gather in the restaurant's large private room, members will order from the full menu and each will be separately billed for their meal—which can be made easier by paying in cash. We will start with a social mix time (when you can order beverages) and then be seated at several tables.

If you wish to attend, please email me to RSVP no later than **December 4th**. Contact me with any questions at 703-255-6273.

At this event, I will complete my final collection of donations of gift cards and personal care items for Artemis House.

For well over 30 years, our branch has annually supported residents of Artemis House (operated by Shelter House, Inc.) as our project to benefit women-in-need and their children in our community. With two locations, Artemis House is the only Fairfax County-sponsored 24-hour emergency shelter for women and children fleeing domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking.

Questions? Contact December Luncheon Chair

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Tuesday Morning Book Group

Group Coordinator:

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, October 21st 10:00am

Where: Home of Susan

Please let Susan know if you will be attending.

Book: *Persuasion by Jane Austen*

Austen's last novel is the crowning achievement of her matchless career. Anne Elliot, a woman of integrity, breeding and great depth of emotion, stands in stark contrast to the brutality and hypocrisy of Regency England.

Candace will facilitate the discussion.

Brown Bag Lit Group

Group Coordinator:

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, October 29th 1:00 – 3:00pm

Where: Home of Connie

Please let Connie know if you will be attending.

Book: *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

A gripping historical mystery based on the real-life diary entries of Martha Ballard, an 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history. Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell.

Georgia will facilitate the discussion.

Non-fiction Book Group

Group Coordinator:

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

The Group will not meet in October.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 10th 7:00pm

Where: Home of Gail

Please let Gail know if you will be attending.

Book: TBD

Great Decisions Program with the Foreign Policy Association

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

When: Sunday, October 19th 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Where: Home of Connie

Please let Connie know if you will be attending.

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

Topic 8 - American Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead

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: Tuesday, October 28th 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. . .

Get vaccinated . . . as soon as possible. Check on your neighbors who might need help.

Foster kindness . . . It is good for your mental health and that of others.

Encourage civility and tolerance . . . We are meant to be a community. Hatred and violence have no place within our nation.

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.
