



Falls Church Area (VA) Branch

AAUW FALLS CHURCH FLASH

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MARCH 1, 2025

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

We have a busy March! Come join us on **Sunday, March 16, at 2:30 for our annual business meeting. This meeting will be held at the Mary Riley Styles Library NOT the Community Center.** We'll be electing new officers and approving next year's budget.



Fatema Dadger has agreed to run for Treasurer and Manuela Costescu has agreed to run for Membership Chair.

Linda Lawrence prepared the draft budgets for our Operating Fund and our Educational (Scholarship) Fund. The budgets are included on the following pages. **We need to have a quorum of about 20 to vote on officers and the budgets. Please attend if possible.**

After our business is completed, we'll have refreshments and can catch up on what's happening with each other. Since it is a day before St. Patrick's Day, the leprechauns may surprise us with special treats! We can't promise drinks of Guinness or Irish whiskey!

Finally, the Annual VA AAUW Conference will be held March 28 & 29 at the Sheraton Suites in Old Town Alexandria. A celebration for 100 years of VA AAUW will be held on March 28. On March 29 Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan (VA-4th) will give the keynote speech, followed by many workshops including banned books, Title IX now, women innovators, and mini grants to change the conversation in your community.

Thanks especially to Sharon Zackula for her work as Conference Co-Chair! Ten branch members are planning to attend. That's over 20% of our total membership. Way to Go Falls Church AAUW!!

Anne Baxter and Mary Youman
Co-Presidents
AAUW Falls Church Area Branch

We are only as strong as our membership. If we want to make a difference and have an impact on policies that are important to us, we cannot let up on building our branch. Please help by inviting a friend to come to a program or an AAUW movie or book group. Consider asking a friend to join AAUW. Explain to your friends the many aspects of AAUW and the positive contributions of AAUW to the community, the state, and the nation.

BRANCH BUSINESS MEETING

MARY RILEY STYLES LIBRARY

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2:30 PM

Here are the draft budgets as prepared by current treasurer Linda Lawrence. [We need a quorum \(20 votes\) to pass the budgets, so please plan to attend the meeting on the 16th.](#)

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2025-2026				
Board draft copy	2025-2026 Est Budget	2024-2025 Working Actual Budget	2023-2024 Est. Budget	2023-2024 Actual Budget
	7/1/25-6/30/26	7/1/24-6/30/25	7/1/23-6/30/24	7/1/23-6/30/24
Beginning Balance July 1	\$ 1,738.62	\$ 2,104.62	\$ 2,073.50	\$ 2,073.50
INCOME				
Dues (paid members) 45 mbrs.	\$ 810.00	\$ 810.00	(40 mbrs.) \$ 720.00	\$ 810.00
less gift memberships				
Other Income				
Total Income for Year	\$ 810.00	\$ 810.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 810.00
GRAND TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,548.62	\$ 2,914.62	\$ 2,793.50	\$ 2,883.50
EXPENSES				
Administration (Zoom)	\$ 169.00	\$ 169.00	\$ 192.00	\$ -
Hospitality (Gift basket, flowers)	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
Membership/supplies/publicity	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 77.00
Room rental (6 in-person FCCC mtgs.)	\$ 150.00	\$ 122.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 262.50
State Convention ad	\$ 95.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
State/National Convention Regist.	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		
Scholarship	\$ 150.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 124.38
Insurance	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Miscellaneous				
Total Expenses for Year	\$ 1,114.00	\$ 1,001.00	\$ 797.00	\$ 778.88
Ending Balance	\$ 1,434.62	\$ 1,738.62	\$ 1,996.50	\$ 2,104.62

2025-2026 Draft Budget Education Fund

Proposed Draft Budget for Board Review

	In-Progress Actual		
	Est. 2025-2026	2024-2025	Actual 2023-2024
	7/1/25-6/30/26	7/1/24- 6/30/25	7/1/23-6/30/24
Beginning Balance July 1	\$ 24,549.95	\$ 35,188.36	\$ 31,414.79
EST. INCOME			
Modified combo book/jewel sale	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,604.95
Combined all sales: Pop-ups, McKays	\$ 500.00	\$ 645.54	\$ 814.27
Jewelry	\$ -	\$ 55.00	\$ 1,421.00
Educ. Fund Donations	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 2,015.00
Dining for dollars (2)	\$ 700.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 335.00
Holiday tree	\$ 165.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 121.00
Bloom Box	\$ 60.00	\$ 63.45	\$ 192.85
Interest from CDs	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
Money from VPIS	\$ -	\$ 357.60	
Total New Income	\$ 1,425.00	\$ 2,361.59	\$ 21,504.07
Total Income	\$ 25,974.95	\$ 37,549.95	\$ 52,918.86
Est. Expense Total			
AAUW Contribution	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
*Local Scholarships	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
Special Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
Fundraising Expense		\$ -	\$ 1,530.50
Total Expenses	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 17,730.50
Income Less Expenses			
Educ. Acct. Bal. June 30	\$ 15,974.95	\$ 24,549.95	\$ 35,188.36

SAVE THE DATE

Our program chairs have planned a fun event for April, one that will raise spirits and funds at the same time! Similar to last spring we will hold a fundraiser at Lebanese Taverna on Washington Blvd. in Arlington, where AAUW-FC will receive 20% of order totals, including takeout, Market purchases and gift cards. We know of one member who purchased several gift cards last year and has enjoyed them throughout the year with her family. Or join a group of fellow members and their family and friends at the restaurant at 5:30 pm on the 15th to enjoy a meal together. Copy and present the flyer below if you are dining in, or use code AAUW for takeout, etc.





Falls Church Area (VA) Branch

LEBANESE TAVERNA PUTS THE FUN IN **FUNDRAISER**



LEBANESE TAVERNA is partnering with

AAUW **APRIL 15th**

20%

 of sales goes to your school or organization

Tax & gratuity not included. Not valid with other offers. Offer valid throughout the day with online food, online gift card purchase, catering and take out orders. Not applied on Door Dash ordering. See below for specific instructions.



GOT OTHER PLANS THAT NIGHT?

buy a gift card online and use anytime at any location.

DINE AT THESE LOCATION:

WESTOVER: 5900 Washington Blvd Arl

MARKET: 4400 Old Dominion Dr, Arl

When Dining In, present this flier to your server or show on your phone to receive credit.

Online Food Ordering, type your school name, **AAUW** in the notes section

Online Gift Card Purchasing, type **AAUW** in the promo code section

Credit is received on all catering, dine-in, take out and gift cards at the above locations.

NOT APPLIED ON DOORDASH WEBSITE



Good Food Enjoyed in Good Company
WWW.LEBANESETAVERNA.COM



All fundraisers must be pre-approved by Lebanese Taverna.

A special thank you to Bunny Jarrett's son, Josh for a fascinating presentation in February on What AI Can Do for You. Here is the link to the program slides in case you missed it.

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PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

Virginia General Assembly



General Assembly Update

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned on February 22. Before adjourning, the legislators passed a budget that increases funding for education including one-time bonuses for teachers, lifting the cap on the number of support staff for public schools and more funding to support students with disabilities and math curriculum changes in an effort to address Virginia's lagging math skills, all items AAUW supports. The budget bill also includes one-time rebates for taxpayers and increases the standard deduction. It also increases the reimbursable amount of the earned income tax credit for working families by 5%. The Governor, of course, will review the General Assembly's budget and is expected to have changes.

During debate on the budget, legislators raised concerns that actions by the Administration to down-size the federal workforce and drastically cut federal spending may seriously affect Virginia's ability to implement the budget, since a large part of it is to be paid for with an expected surplus of state revenue. A special session to work on the budget is predicted.

Three constitutional amendments enshrining the right to reproductive health care, same sex marriage, and automatic restoration of voting rights to felons once they have completed their sentences in the Virginia Constitution were also passed. The Governor plays no part in consideration of constitutional amendments. They now must be approved by the General Assembly in 2026 and then, if passed, will be put on the November 2026 ballot for consideration by the Virginia electorate.

The legislators also passed several bills supported by AAUW and sent them to the Governor for his review: establishing a paid Medical and Family Leave insurance program; paid sick leave for all public and private employees in Virginia; raising the minimum wage to \$13.50 in 2026 and \$15 in 2027 and eliminating the exemption from the minimum wage for farm employees and temporary foreign workers; requiring cultural competency and unconscious bias training for renewal of a medical license; providing a right to obtain and use contraception.

The legislators are scheduled to return on April 2 to take up vetoes and amendments by the Governor and to review the budget in light of actions taken at the federal level.

Lobby Corps

Lobby Corps members continue to advocate on Capitol Hill for issues of importance to women and their families, usually on two Thursday mornings each month. The next scheduled Lobby Day is March 6. A schedule of Lobby Days for 2025 was emailed to branch members on February 13. If you have questions, please contact Becky Gaul at beckygaul@verizon.net

Two-Minute Activist

In addition to Lobby Corps, there is another way to get your voice heard on issues of importance to you and AAUW. Become a Two-Minute Activist! It's easy. Just go to [Two-Minute Activist](#), click on the "sign up" button, and fill out the form with your name, address, and email. Once you've signed up, you'll receive an email when you advocacy is needed. AAUW will provide you with the tools you need to contact your Senators and Representatives, state legislators and other government officials. You'll receive a prepared letter which you can edit to personalize your message if you wish. Then with a push of a button, your message is on its way. If time is of the essence, you may receive a request to make phone calls and will be given talking points. With your help, the Action Network can boost AAUW's influence on Capitol Hill and in statehouses across the country. **You will receive email notices when your advocacy is most needed.**

MOVIES & BOOKS

February ended with a joint virtual meeting for the book group and the virtual film group. We read two short works, **Foster** and **Small Things Like These** by Claire Keegan. Luckily for the virtual film group both novellas were made into films.

While there will be no March meeting for either group, there is no shortage of films adapted from books available to read and watch. All you need to do is to check out this year's Academy Award nominations. And here are a few of the film/book nominations:

A Complete Unknown/Dylan Goes Electric by Elijah Wald

Conclave/Conclave by Robert Harris

Nickel Boys/The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

I Am Still Here/ I Am Still Here by Marcelo Rubins Paiva

Wicked/Wicked by Gregory Maguire

So, what is your reading and watching preference? Hope to see many of you at our branch business meeting on Sunday March 9th and the AAUW-VA Conference and 100th Anniversary on March 28th and March 29th. April plans for both groups are underway and will be shared once a decision is made.



MARCH CALENDAR



March 16, 2:30 pm, Branch business meeting, Mary Riley Styles Library

March 28-29, AAUW Virginia State Conference, Sheraton Suites, Old Town, Alexandria



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 based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

