



March/April 2023



## President's Letter

Dear GRAAUW colleagues,  
I would say Happy Spring based on the last few weeks of above normal temps, but I understand it's supposed to drastically change quickly. Since mother nature seems to be in a VERY changeable mood these days - who knows? Maybe by the time you get this "Happy Summer" will be more appropriate !!

We have a busy spring coming up for our branch ... our annual business meeting in March, the state AAUW conference in Williamsburg on March 18th followed by our April branch activity on health inequity and our end of the year picnic on June 10th.

As the General Assembly session winds down for 2023 there are going to be many changes in "the face" of our legislature for 2024 - many resignations have already been announced and all GA seats are up for election this fall.

We need a quorum of branch members to be present for the March annual business meeting and election of officers. Our

Nominating Committee is putting together our slate for election. If you are willing to serve as Treasurer or VP of Membership or in any other capacity, please contact Connie Sorrell, Carol Stephens, or Erica Brown-Meredith.

We hope that many of you will be able to make it in person to this very important meeting and bring a friend or two to introduce them to AAUW. Your branch board has been very busy with strategic planning for the future of our branch. Thanks to all of you who responded to the recent surveys done. They are guiding our decisions!

Hope this finds all well with you and yours!

Laura Wimmer  
Branch President

## Important Dates for your calendar!

March 13 - GRAAUW Annual Meeting  
March 18 - AAUW of VA State Conference  
March 25 - AAUW of VA business meeting (zoom) all welcome  
April 15 - Activity meeting ( see next page)  
June 10 - Annual GRAAUW EOY Picnic

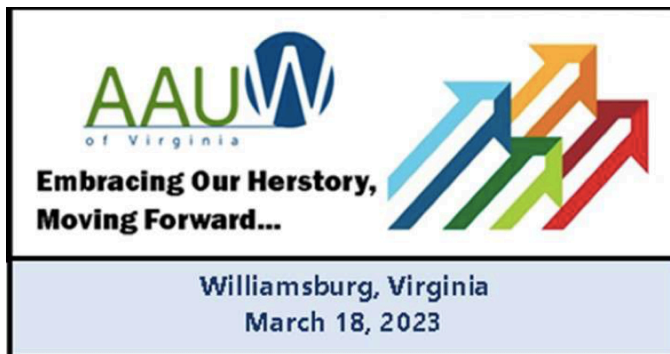
*In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.*

## Nominations open for GRAAUW Board Positions

Your Nominations Committee, Connie Sorrell, Erica Brown-Meredith, and Carol Stephens are charged with finding candidates to fill the following elected positions: VP of Membership and Treasurer.

## AAUW of VA STATE CONFERENCE

March 18, 2023: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm in  
Williamsburg  
Holiday Inn & Suites—Williamsburg/  
Gateway  
515 Bypass Rd. 23185



Conference Brochure with all information is [HERE!](#)

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

**SEE END OF NEWSLETTER FOR PAPER REGISTRATION TO BE MAILED IN**

**Cost is \$100 ( includes breakfast and lunch) no cancellations after March 4th**  
We will carpool there. Let Laura know you are attending.

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## Programs

**March 13th - Annual Business Meeting & Social 6:30 -8:00 pm -Tuckahoe Library**  
1901 Starling Dr. Henrico, 23229

Our **March Business Meeting** will be a will be preceded by a recruitment and engagement session. We ask everyone to bring a friend(s) you would like to introduce to GRAAUW. We will have a **St. Patrick's Day themed social hour** with a presentation by our membership director, Erica Brown-Meredith on the history and mission of AAUW. We will finish with our annual business meeting and guests are welcome to stay or leave.

**April 15<sup>th</sup> Program/Activity meeting at Tuckahoe Library from 1:00 to 3:30 pm**

Our April get together will be a **service project supporting the VCU Heartbeats program**. The director, Leann Ragland presented to our meeting in September. In the next few weeks, please collect or purchase donations for the program. We will meet on 4/15 to put together packages for Heartbeats clients. Here is some direction on their needs from Leann:

*We take **gift cards and supplies as well!** The items we need most often are **diapers** (all sizes), **wipes**, toiletries for both mom and baby (body wash, lotion, deodorant, exc), women and **baby clothes**, breastfeeding supplies (nipple pads, milk storage bags, nipple cream), exc. Many of our clients are single moms, often starting over from scratch and don't have much, so there isn't much we turn down. We do ask that the items be good quality (no hotel toiletries, exc) because it is important, we do not give the impression we believe just because they have nothing, they'll accept anything. Let me know if you have any more questions!*

**GRAAUW PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE FEBRUARY 2023**

Laurie Coulter, Public Policy Chair

Thank you to all of you who participated in contacting your legislators during this busy General Assembly session. As of this writing the General Assembly session has ended and now the Budget needs to be finalized. There have been several bills concerning Abortion, Paid Family Medical Leave, Paid Sick days and Education funding that many of you responded to me about your concerns. Luckily the Senate has been able to block many bills that we were concerned about especially concerning abortion access and education public school funding. However, there were many bills that we wanted to see address AAUW issues that were either tabled or killed in either the Senate or House.

Special thanks go to **Kathy Kelley, Barb Strohman, and Carol Stephens** for attending AAUW-VA Lobby Day on January 18 at the General Assembly here in Richmond VA.

Thank you all in Congressional District 4 for getting out to vote in the special election held on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Virginia has voted in its very first Black Woman representative to the US Congress!

There will be a wrap up Zoom meeting by AAUW-VA Co VP Public Policy Chairs later in March for us to learn more about final outcomes of the bills we supported and opposed. Stay tuned for that announcement!

Thank you again for all your support and quick turn around to the many emails concerning bills that were coming up for vote in this General Assembly.

In November 2023, all 140 Virginia Senate and Delegate elected officials are up for election. It will be an important time for us to be active in the upcoming Virginia elections. With several elected officials deciding to retire namely Dick Saslaw, the majority Senate leader, we may see some real changes in leadership depending on the outcome of the 2023 Virginia election.

Let me know if you have any thoughts, questions or concerns.

**Public Policy meeting on March 30, 5:00 pm on zoom we will discuss how we can inform our members and other voters about candidate positions on our Public Policy priorities.**

**See email from Laurie sent on Sunday morning for wrap up of legislation in General Assembly of our priority issues.**

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## Book Group

Continuing a 50-year tradition, our Book Group meets at **2 p.m.** on the third Thursday of each month. **All GRAAUW members and their guests are welcome.** Join us any time our book interests you OR come every month. We are still deciding whether to hold our discussions via zoom or in person. If you wish to attend, please contact DeAnn Lineberry: [deann.lineberry@yahoo.com](mailto:deann.lineberry@yahoo.com) or call 804-233-5352 to find out location.

### Thursday, March 16

**BOOK: *Susan, Linda, Nina & Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR***, by Lisa Napoli. When National Public Radio came along in the 1970s, the door to serious journalism for women opened a crack; four remarkable women emerged and blew it off its hinges.

### Thursday, April 20

**BOOK: *Reset: My Fight for Inclusion and Lasting Change***, by Ellen Pao. The author courageously confronted Silicon Valley's bias and discrimination. With deep intelligence and a gift for story-telling, she passionately recounts her path to activism and advocacy. A rare glimpse into the gender roles and stereotypes that still pervade.

### April

Laurie Coulter 4/01  
Dulce Lawrence 4/07  
Laura Wimmer 4/22

## Lunch Bunch

**GRAAUW's Lunch Bunch** normally gathers on the second Thursday each month at 1:30 p.m. in restaurants around RVA. **Lunch Bunch** began a few years ago as a way for members to meet for informal socializing. Last Fall, we planned an International Tour with our Lunch Bunch dates.

For information about the group, contact DeAnn Lineberry at [deann.lineberry@yahoo.com](mailto:deann.lineberry@yahoo.com)

**March 9, -O'Toole's Irish Pub for St. Patrick's Day, 4800 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond 23225**, just east of Westover Hills Blvd.. Contact Marian Seigla if you plan to attend. Phone 804-522-1518

**April 13, Ruang Tong Thai Cuisine in the Stratford Hills Shopping Center, 6790 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond, Va 23225.** Contact DeAnn if you plan to attend. Phone 804-233-5352

## Birthday Corner

We would like to recognize the folks who will be celebrating their birthdays in **March** and **April**. Please let them know you are thinking of them on their special day!

### March

Elizabeth Smith 3/19



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## 2023 Conference Registration Form

- **Name\*** First  
Last
- **Address** Street Address  
Address Line 2  
City  
State / Province / Region  
ZIP / Postal Code
- **Branch:**
- **Phone:**
- **Email\***
- **Check all that apply:**
  - First Time Attendee.      Presenter
  - AAUW VA Branch Member.      Current AAUW-VA Board Member
  - Current Branch Presiden . Past State Board President
- **Please check the appropriate box(es) and include requested information:**
- :
- **All Registrations received after February 22nd: \$100 Price:No refunds after March 4, 2023**
- **LUNCH FOOD SELECTION (Indicate Choice (s) below)**
  - Penne Ala Vodka
  - Penne Ala Vodka Add Chicken
  - Citrus Grilled Salmon
  - Vegetarian Lasagna
- **Dietary or Other Special Needs:**
- **Accessibility Needs:**
- **Friday Evening: I plan to attend the Friday evening activities.**
  - Yes    NO
- **Send check payable to AAUW-VA to:** Ms. Sally Daniel, 4841 Brandywine Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 ATTN: AAUW 2023 Conference
- questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Tammie Rice at 757-630-7097 or [tammieaauw@gmail.com](mailto:tammieaauw@gmail.com)

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