



The Marylander

Volume 93 #1 Fall 2024

President, Heather Reichert

Editor, Susan Wierman

<http://aauw-md.aauw.net>

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Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

President's Message

By Heather Reichardt, President, AAUW Maryland

Here is my first Marylander article as state President. I am honored to serve every one of you for the next two years. The longer I'm a member of AAUW, the more I treasure the people I meet and work with, as well as all the activities and information we have available to us to accomplish AAUW's mission.

I can't thank Tracy Lantz enough for guiding me through the transition. I did and will rely on her wisdom, experience and dedication to the cause. Her knowledge of AAUW and her ability to keep her fingers on the pulse are valuable to me and to you as members.

Thank you to those who attended the summer meeting in Baltimore and supported me during my first state business meeting. Carolyn Fisher did a great job in identifying our speaker from the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. And I think everyone who attended would agree that Jeanne Blades, our Vice President for Membership, did a wonderful job of breaking down membership concepts and demystifying the AAUW.org website. Thank you to Jeanne and Carolyn! My goal is to make our meetings as informative and engaging as possible. That is not an easy effort, but we will 'make it work!' The summer meeting was outstanding due to all the work done by the Baltimore Branch.

I look forward to working with the returning and new officers. This is a solid team! Unfortunately, we are still in need of volunteers for **several open positions**: We are looking for a Programs Vice President, as well as a Secretary due to Diane Roca's continuing illness. Please volunteer or help identify excellent candidates for these important positions.

I hope everyone is keeping Diane in their thoughts. As a reminder, here is the CaringBridge website where you can find updates on her recovery. <https://www.caringbridge.org/site/57200e4d-2cda-11ef-99e5-d9945414cc0f> Diane just celebrated her 80th birthday in a rehab center in Howard County, having completed an extended stay at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She is making great progress, but still has a long road ahead.



The 2024 AAUW Maryland Convention, beautifully hosted by the Kensington-Rockville Branch, also included a great presentation on ranked choice voting, remarks by AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell, and updates on the ERA and state legislation. Congratulations to all who made this event so successful.

As we have mentioned several times, we are replacing our usual statewide fall conference with the Atlantic Regional Conference to be held in Glen Allen, Virginia, just north of Richmond! Three Maryland members have been on the planning team with those from 11 other regional states for more than a year. The event begins on Friday afternoon and continues until midday Sunday (Sept. 27th-29th).

I strongly encourage everyone to attend the regional conference. It will be full of information relevant to the upcoming elections. And there will be opportunities to meet and learn from members from all over the east coast. We'll have speakers, some AAUW leaders and others from outside organizations, on topics including Generative AI, Ending Period Poverty, Ranked Choice Voting, Reproductive Rights, The Attack on our Public Schools, Strengthening our Advocacy, Voting Rights and Challenges, the Status of the Equal Rights Amendment and AAUW's role in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, also referred to as the international bill of rights for women.

I cannot wait to see those of you who attend the Regional Conference September 27-29 in Glen Allen, Virginia! Check out the information on our website and register today!

There won't be time for an AAUW MD Board Meeting during the Regional Conference, so please mark your calendars for a **virtual Fall Board Meeting** on Wednesday, October 9 at 7pm. The Zoom link will be forwarded closer to the date.

One of my goals is to get to know the branches better. **My first trip will be to Garrett County to attend their Women's Equality Day celebration on August 26, 2024.** The branch has a different type of event each year on this day. For 2024, the theme is "Title IX Update: Ensuring Gender Equality in Our Educational Institutions." I know this will be an outstanding community event. I would like all the branches to let me know about their meetings and events so I can plan a visit.

Thank you again for allowing me to represent everyone in AAUW Maryland as your President. See you soon!

~Heather Reichardt, AAUW Maryland President

Join Us for the **AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference**

Connecting Voices from the Everglades to the Northern Border

September 27th – 29th, 2024

Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center
1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059



REGISTER NOW!

Detailed information is at the Conference Link

<https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com/>

Update from AAUW National Board

By Christine Schmitz

I would like to take this opportunity to share with Branch and State leaders some of the key takeaways from my first National Board meeting. A major focus for the current fiscal year July 2024 through June 2025 is the updated Five Star Program. The details can be found at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>.



AAUW National is encouraging every affiliate (Branch and State) to participate in this Five Star Program. The key emphasis of this program is to increase mission-based programming and public policy/advocacy work by the affiliates. Getting more reporting about Branch and State activities will help National showcase AAUW's impact across the country.

Also, an emphasis on member support for AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund is very important. The Greatest Needs Fund is the unrestricted funds which are vitally important to the day to day running of the organization at all levels, Branch, State and National.

On **September 10, at 4 p.m.** AAUW will host a special virtual Member Gathering. AAUW National will recognize our outstanding supporters and branches and share updates on our work in Policy, Programs, Membership, and more. Click [Register now](#).

I hope to share more updates in following Marylanders. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or need specific guidance.

Christine Schmitz / dialacpa@aol.com

THE AAUW PROGRAM

Each year AAUW's Five-Star National Recognition Program rewards branches for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and initiatives that foster the mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls. AAUW determines how many stars a branch has earned based on information branch leaders submit in the annual Impact Survey.

The **FY24 Impact Survey** will be emailed to branch leaders in September 2024. This annual survey is an opportunity for branches to share with AAUW National and celebrate achievements over the past fiscal year. The AAUW website lists the FY25 Five Star Program criteria plus resources to help branches meet the requirements on its website. Please consult the criteria when planning branch programs and activities for the 2024-2025 year. Branch leaders will receive additional resources on the Five Star Program in AAUW's **Membership Matters** newsletters, including an FAQ to guide you through the process.

Five star categories:

1. **Advancement** (membership growth and fundraising)
2. **Public policy & Advocacy**
3. **Governance & Sustainability**
4. **Programming**
5. **Communications & External Relations**

(See website for list of eligible activities for 2023-2024 and 2024-25)

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Baltimore Branch

By Dorothy Fraquelli and Yvonne Higgins

The Branch was pleased to host the AAUW Maryland Summer Meeting July 20. About 30 people attended in person, with another seven online. Many thanks to all who helped to make this a successful event. Kudos to Jean Smith and Eunice Young for the excellent food and location.

Our September kick off meeting, will include a “Meet and Greet” casual light brunch at the home of Branch Co-President, Yvonne Higgins. Members are encouraged to put forward ideas regarding branch programming and activities. Co-Vice Presidents for Programing, Denise Gray and Janice Zimmerman will be arranging programs focused on Public Education. This fits in perfectly with the AAUW Strategic Plan. In the Plan, under Education & Training, Goal 1 is to champion equal access in education, emphasizing STEM. Goal 2 is the ensure education at every level is free from sex discrimination. If you have ideas for speakers or activities related to these goals, please connect with Denise and Janice.

Denise and Janice have had a busy summer. Denise trained as an election judge and both Denise and Janice have been trained to register voters in person. Volunteers must be certified as a voter registration distributor. Branch representatives plan to encourage registration at several local colleges.

We are also pursuing an opportunity to stream the movie *She Rises Up*. The movie follows radically different women from Sri Lanka, Peru, and Senegal who are fighting to build businesses that create job opportunities for women, while also contributing to the reduction of poverty in their communities. October 17 is International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Garrett County Branch

By Judy A. Carbone, Branch President



If your summer has been anything like mine, there has been much going on in our social, political, economic, health, and other spheres, some of it has been good...some of it has been not so good...and some of it has been a roller coaster with some of both. We started our new year with our annual Women’s Equality Day Celebration on August 26.

We recently announced the 10 recent recipients of 2024 Branch

Scholarships totaling \$7,500 so far for the year. According to Christine Campe-Price, Scholarship Committee Chair, the scholarships will support the cost of higher education for the recipients during the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years. Still to be awarded this year is the Marilyn Moors "Second Chances" Scholarship at Garrett College. If you are interested in learning more about AAUW-Garrett Branch and supporting the branch’s



initiatives and programs, please visit their Facebook page or call Judy A. Carbone, Branch President, at 301-616-5036.

I am pleased to say that Linda Herdering stepped up to take the Secretary position and Elaine Formby stepped up to take the Treasurer position. My sincerest thanks to them both. I am also pleased to announce that Kathy Zimmer has stepped up to take the VP of Membership role...thank you, Kathy! And a ton of gratitude for outgoing Secretary Sara Hoffman and outgoing Treasurer Mary Helen Spear for their years of service to AAUW-Garrett Branch.

Howard County Branch

By Beth Hayden, Branch President

It's been a wonderful summer with vacations, time with the family and recharging of our energy! As we head into fall, we will gather for our first Branch meeting of the year on September 17th. Terri Hansen, Manager of Age-Friendly Howard County and an employee of the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence, will lead us in an interactive conversation about how negative attitudes about aging permeate our culture and what we can do about it. Terri is an energetic and insightful presenter who will help each of us become more aware of this issue and how it is one of the "-isms" people of all ages need to address.

Howard Community College Parent Scholars Program Howard Community College has renamed the Career Links Program to "Parent Scholars Program" (PSP). The new name better describes the program which helps single parents and displaced homemakers achieve their educational goals. AAUW Howard County Branch supports this program by funding several scholarships for participating students. This school year we will be awarding four \$1,000 scholarships.

Diane Roca resigned as AAUW MD and Branch Secretary and Chair of the State Bylaws Committee due to her lengthy illness and recovery. Diane is in rehabilitation at Vantage Point after being taken to the hospital June 9th for a very serious and debilitating illness. She is making good progress, and we wish her a continued speedy recovery and a Happy 80th Birthday (August 21). She is responding to emails and taking some visitors, so check with her before you go.

Kensington-Rockville Branch

By Dian Belanger, Branch President

Our first program meeting of the year brings us an exciting guest speaker, Catherine Hill, the new and first paid Executive Director of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. She will share information about her new role and discuss critical legislation for women and families that will be on the Maryland ballot this November as well as important issues facing the 2025 Maryland Legislature.

Free Memberships

Shape the Future Campaign offers half price national membership! Go to AAUW.org, click on *Membership* in top bar, click on *Governance and Tools*, click on *State and Branch Tools*, scroll down to *Resources at the Ready* and click on "Learn More About AAUW's Shape the Future Campaign." The coupon code is STFFY25.

With Shape the Future, for every 2 new members, the branch earns one free membership up to a total of 3 free memberships per fiscal year. Click on Status Report to check how many free memberships you have earned from July 2023 to June 2024. Free memberships must be claimed by September 30, 2024. Click on Redemption Form to print this form.



Leadership Opportunities

Anita Rosen, Bev Fallik, Edie Allison, and Susan Wierman

The AAUW Maryland Nominating Committee is seeking nominees to be AAUW MD Programs Vice President and Secretary. These vacancies are to be filled by the Board at a regular Board meeting or by electronic vote. Please email aauw-md@aauw.net to volunteer or request more information.

Your AAUW Maryland leaders

AAUW MD Officers (Executive Board)

Heather Reichardt, President (2024-2026)

Tracy Lantz, Past President (2024-2025)

_____(**TBD**), Vice President for Programs (2024-2026)

_____(**TBD**), Secretary (2023-2025)

Jeri Rhodes, Vice President for AAUW Funds (2022-2024)

Lydia Alcock and Susana Hernández Martín (2024-2026) and **Susan Wierman** (2022-2025),
Co-Vice Presidents for Communications

Roxann King and Judy Carbone, Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy ('21-'25 & '23- '25)

Christine Schmitz, Treasurer (2023-2025)

Jeanne Blades Vice President for Membership (2023-2025)

AAUW MD Committee Chairs (Appointed Members of the Board)

Carolyn Fisher, Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2022-2024)

Terry Saylor, Archivist (2022-2024)

_____, Chair of the Bylaws Committee

ERA Taskforce Chair, Judy Carbone

Regional Event Planning Committee: Dian Belanger, Carol Mueller, and Tracy Lantz

2025 Nominations Committee: Anita Rosen (Kensington-Rockville), Bev Fallik (Howard County), and Edie Allison (Gaithersburg). Susan Wierman (Baltimore) (past chair) will serve ex officio.

Each Branch President is also a member of the Board of Directors

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United States Senate

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET
FOREIGN RELATIONS

August 19, 2024

Dear Ms. Reichardt,

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for comprehensive and equitable Title IX rules. I appreciate hearing from you and apologize for the delayed response.

I agree that our schools must be safe environments for all students. Title IX is an important civil rights law to protect students from discrimination on the basis of sex or gender. As you may already know, there have been many recent changes to the Department of Education's (ED) rules related to Title IX. During the Trump administration, then-Secretary DeVos issued a Title IX final rule that weakened important protections for survivors of sexual assault and harassment. I joined my colleagues in writing to ED in strong opposition to this rule.

That is why I was pleased to see ED issue a new final rule in April 2024 that restores and strengthens protections for survivors and other victims of gender-based discrimination. In addition, these final regulations strengthen protections against discrimination for pregnant students, prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ+ students, and require schools to communicate their non-discrimination policies to all students and employees. I will oppose legislation that would repeal or weaken these rules, including resolutions under the Congressional Review Act like S.J. Res. 96.

As you may already know, the new Title IX final rule has been subject to a complex array of legal challenges since it was introduced, including seven separate lawsuits from various groupings of twenty-six states. Multiple federal courts have ruled in favor of these states, finding, among other conclusions, that ED overstepped its authority. In August 2024, the Supreme Court declined to overturn several of these orders, ensuring that provisions of the new rule would be blocked in all twenty-six states which have brought forward legal challenges. In addition, a Kansas federal judge ruled in favor of an additional suit brought by a group of states and private organizations, blocking enforcement of the new rule at hundreds of colleges across all 50 states. As a consequence, the new Title IX rule is only being enforced in a patchwork manner in the states and individual colleges where no court ruling has blocked its implementation.

Please know that I am monitoring these ongoing legal cases and will continue to fight to ensure that the rights of survivors and LGBTQ+ students are protected. Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts, and please do not hesitate to contact me whenever I may be of service.

Sincerely,

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Dues are Due

FY25 National dues remain the same: National Member (\$72), Students (\$18.81), and Lifetime (\$1,440). As of January 2024, all National dues are FULLY tax deductible!

College/University Membership dues are \$250 and include two national memberships and unlimited student memberships.

There is still time to pay your national, state, and branch dues.

Update Your Personal Profile

To pay dues online and select what newsletters and other communication you wish to receive from the national office, please update your Personal Profile:

- Go to aauw.org. Click Log In in the upper right corner.
- Log in to your account using your email address. If you've forgotten your password, there's an option to set a new one. If your email has changed and AAUW doesn't recognize the one you use now, send an email to connect@aauw.org to ask for help in updating your contact information.
- Click on My Preferences to update to information you want to receive from AAUW

How to Renew your Membership

AAUW has posted a video showing step by step how to renew your membership in AAUW. You can find the video on YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_uUdb8AtpKg&t=27s

Written instructions for renewing members can also be found on AAUW.org here:

https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2023/04/COMMUNITY-HUB-Self-Renewal-for-Existing-Member_05112022.docx

Download the College/University Member Toolkit

Our newly designed C/U Member Toolkit helps branches promote AAUW and engage with prospective and current C/U members in your community. Contents include: FAQs, a C/U Membership flyer, and flyers to encourage students, staff, and faculty on campus to access the Salary Negotiation and Financial Literacy trainings available to all C/U Members.

Remember to File IRS form 990 to maintain tax exemptions

All AAUW-affiliates must file a tax return each year. The simplest option for non-profits is Form 990-N, which AAUW can prepare if your annual gross receipts are \$50k or less.



AAUW ACTION FUND

Join AAUW's "It's My Vote!" campaign to elevate public discussion and engage gender equity advocates. Get involved:

- ✓ Use our Voter Issue Guide (English & Spanish).
- ✓ Share our social media posts (Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter).
- ✓ Stay legal: Review AAUW Guidelines for Election Activities.

For more information, go to <https://www.aauwaction.org/my-vote/>

Join Us for the **AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference**

Connecting Voices from the Everglades to the Northern Border

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1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059



REGISTER NOW!

Detailed information is at the Conference Link

<https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com/>

Agenda

Day 1 – Friday, September 27, 2024

- 1:30 Welcome Opening Remarks Lane Stone President AAUW Virginia
- 1:45 Moving AAUW Forward: Priorities, Progress and Potential Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW
- 2:30 The Attack on Our Public Schools Carol Mueller
- 3:15 Commitment to the Mission: Serving on AAUW National Committees
- 4:00 Leaving a Legacy, Making a Difference Kristin Moyer
- 4:15 - 5:00 *Break/Check-in*
- 5:00 AAUW Global Engagement: The UN and Beyond Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW CEO
- 5:30 *The Glen Restaurant* NCCWSL & AAUW Grantee Dinner & Panel Discussion
- 7:30 Large Group & State Photos
- 8:00 - 9:00 *The Sassy, Soulful Sirens - Tuneful Tales of Trial & Triumph - A Musical Cabaret*

Day 2 – Saturday, September 28, 2024

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM Networking and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 Welcome, Updates, Housekeeping, Lane Stone, *President AAUW Virginia*
- 8:45 Generative AI: The Evolution of Machine Learning and Why It Matters
- 10:00 - 11:00 Roundtables - Ideas for Growing AAUW
- 11:00 - 12:30 *The Glen Restaurant Lunch Speaker: Immigration, Danielle Beach-Oswald*
- 12:45 - Trending Topics:
 - Title IX / Ending Period Poverty / The Right to Vote for All / ERA: The Fight Continues
- 1:45 - Swap Shop Sessions
 - *Civics 9-1-1: Raising Civic Awareness, Understanding, & Engagement*

- *If I Can “C” It, I Can Be It...Discover How Curiosity, Creativity, and Career Exploration Can Lead Women and Girls to Nontraditional Careers*
- *Keeping Small Branches Afloat but Not Adrift*
- *Harnessing Social Media for Impact*
- *Virtual Branches: Opportunities and Challenge*

2:30 - 2:45 Break 2:45 Trending Topics:

Ending Period Poverty / Inclusion Infusion and Beyond / History of AAUW / Building Coalitions

3:30 - 3:45 PM Break

3:45 - Trending Topics:

Integrating DEI into AAUW Work / Strengthening Advocacy Across Generational Lines / ERA: The Fight Continues / Ranked Choice Voting /

4:45 Swap Shop Sessions

- *The Power of Focus Groups in Creating an Engaged Branch*
- *Find Your STEM-Experiences that Answer the Question “Why Not Me” for Girls 8 to 80*
- *Harnessing Social Media for Impact*
- *Virtual Branches: Opportunities and Challenge*
- *How Support for a Local Title 1 School Translated to Increased Visibility for the Branch*

6:00 - Meet for Dine Around -Optional dinner with conference members at local restaurants.

Day 3 – Sunday, September 29, 2024

8:00 – 8:30 Networking *Breakfast On Your Own*

8:30 Issues and Actions: Voting and the ERA

9:30 Issues and Actions: The Fight for Reproductive Freedom

10:30 - 11:00 *Break/Checkout*

11:00 US Immigration: Skimming the Fact from the Fiction, and a Look Ahead into 2025

12:00 - 12:30 Lessons Learned and Take-a-ways, Lane Stone, *President AAUW Virginia*

This year, **MLAW is celebrating their 30th anniversary!** MLAW’s fall conference will be held



MLAW
Maryland Legislative
Agenda for Women

on **Saturday, November 23, 2024** at The Meeting House in Columbia, MD. Registration and sponsorship materials are coming soon! **This year MLAW is offering a discount on conference registration to members.** Please join or renew your membership now to receive a \$5 off coupon for the conference.

Your paid membership entitles you to VOTE for the legislative issues that will be included on the MLAW Legislative Agenda. Join online by visiting <http://www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org>.



Mail In Registration Form

Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center

September 27 – 29, 2024

Name: _____
Last First

Street Address: _____






City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Check one:

- AAUW Member: State: _____ Branch: _____
- AAUW Student: State: _____ College: _____
- Guest

	Amount	Cost	Total
Conference Early Bird Registration - Deadline September 6, 2024 - \$209.00			\$
Conference Late Registration September 7 – September 20, 2024 - \$225.00			\$
Optional Dinner - Friday September 27, 2024	\$65.00		\$
AAUW Logo Items for Purchase – Funds exceeding conference expenses will be donated to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. Orders before Sept 6 must be picked up at the conference or send your mailing address to suzanne@suzannerothwell.com			
AAUW Large Zippered Bag 		25.00	\$
AAUW Mug 		15.00	\$
Conference Mug 		15.00	\$
AAUW Notebook 		12.00	\$
AAUW Logo Badge 		10.00	\$
TOTAL			\$

**No refunds after Sept. 16, 2024; Send form with check payable to:
 AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference**

Mailing Address:

Marsha Melkonian, Treasurer
 150 Clearcreek Court
 Moneta, VA 24121
 Attn: AAUW Regional Conference

Questions Contact:

Diane Schrier, Regional Conference
 Co-Chair 352-209-3094
 diane.schrier@gmail.com



The Marylander
 AAUW Maryland
 607 Wilton Road
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Our Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Our Vision: Equity for all.

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 socioeconomic status.

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October 9 at 7 pm: AAUW MD Board meeting via Zoom	3	National Board Update and 5 Star Program
November 3: Daylight Savings Time Ends	4-5	Branch Activities
November 5: Election Day	6	State Leadership & Opportunities
November 23: MLAW (Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women) 30 th Anniversary Fall Conference, The Meeting House, Columbia, MD	7	Letter from Senator Van Hollen
Jan. 8 – Apr. 7: 2025 MD Legislative Session	8	Renew your membership!
Jan. 20: Inauguration Day	9-10	Agenda for Atlantic Reg'l Conf.
	10	MLAW Conference & discount
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