

October Meeting

**Plan to attend the
AAUW Maryland 2025 Fall Conference
Native-American Ethnic and Educational Issues, Past to Present**

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

611 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd.

Severna Park, Maryland

This will be our monthly meeting for October. Carpools are being organized from Ingleside at King Farm and from Leisure World to Severna Park on October 18. Charlene Currie is coordinating the carpools. She may be contacted by email at cmcurrie9@gmail.com or phone: 301-613-2442. Please contact her today if you are planning to attend but have not already coordinated with her.

Details of the meeting are in the Fall 2025 *Marylander*, where you can register and pay. The morning session will be focused on the theme. Join members of all AAUW Maryland branches for an excellent program that will introduce us to the people who lived throughout the Chesapeake Bay region for thousands of years before Europeans arrived, and the over 20,000 Native Americans currently living in Maryland. The program will also cover the unique system of Native American Tribal Colleges and Universities and the special issues of Native American higher education.

Doors will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is at 12:30 p.m., and the board meeting begins at 1:15 p.m. All attending members are invited to the board meeting. Some may prefer to leave after lunch, which is why it is important to settle carpool arrangements now.

Yvonne Simms
Program Vice President
ylsimms@gmail.com

Registration

Online:

With Eventbrite: Copy into browser to pay online:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-maryland-2025-fall-conference-tickets-1645164724979>

By Mail:

Download and complete this Registration Form:

<https://aauw-md-aauw.net/files/2025/09/Fall-Conference-Registration.pdf>

Mail with check to Roxann King at:

2535 Painter Court
Annapolis, MD 21401

Make checks payable to **AAUW Maryland**.

From the President

Meghan Kissell, AAUW's Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy, brightened our opening meeting of 2025-26 with her energy, knowledge, and conviction. If you had to miss, do ask someone in attendance to explain her truth that she devotes "night and day" to her passionate commitment to women's issues!

Meghan informed and inspired us as we face challenges to hard-earned rights and freedoms we thought cemented in perpetuity. She affirmed my view that AAUW, an organization dedicated to promoting higher education and thus-earned rewards along with political and social equity for women for more than 140 years(!), is even more important and relevant in these scary times.

Together we approved our 2025-26 budget, including a \$100 gift of gratitude to the Ingleside King Farm Employee Appreciation Fund for enabling our frequent gatherings on site. We approved new and continuing branch officers and other board leaders and welcomed new members and visitors. Some of us enjoyed lively conversation over lunch in the café.

We'll be learning more about AAUW's strategic priorities and special funds to support each: Defending Higher Education, Public Policy, and Greatest Needs. Please contribute as you're able, in addition to annual dues due on the anniversary of your joining if that was recent.. You should be receiving advance

notices. Long-timers' dues are due July 1 (payable starting April 1).

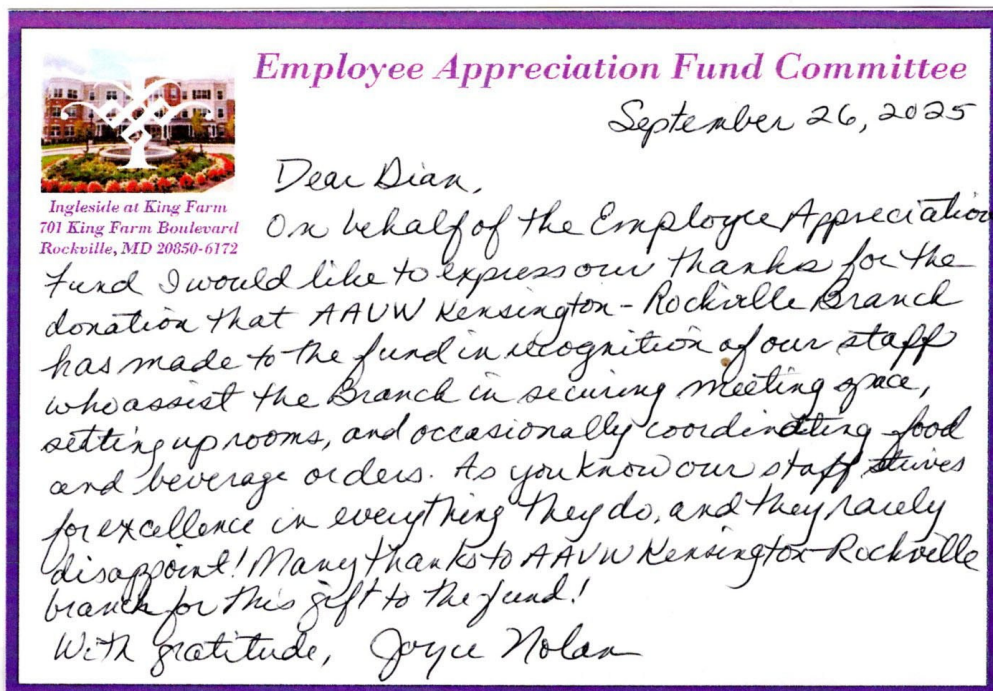
Happily, Kensington-Rockville has been making AAUW Maryland's Fall Conference our October branch meeting, this year hosted by the Anne Arundel Branch on Saturday, October 18, in Severna Park. The program promises excellence. Please see *and respond* to Charlene Currie's carpooling survey, whether you need a ride or can offer one.

Dian Belanger
KR President
dobelanger@comcast.net

Public Policy Update

Many of you will remember that earlier this year we heard a powerful branch presentation by Anna Palmisano, PhD Director of Marylanders for Patient Rights. Anna shared the abysmal metrics about quality health care in our state. Nationally, Maryland has consistently been in the bottom 10% of hospital patient satisfaction, had the worst rating in ER wait time, and the second to worst in nursing home inspections. She shared with us past efforts to address this poor record, largely a result of the failure of the Maryland Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) to provide sufficient oversight of Maryland's health care facilities.

With new leadership of that office in place, the Marylanders for Patient Rights will be putting forward proposed legislation for a stakeholder ad-



visory council for the Maryland OHCQ for hospitals and nursing homes.

You will be hearing more about this proposed legislation in the coming months, along with the proposed legislation that will be promoted by the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. MLAW will hold its Fall Conference in Columbia, MD, *Women in the Lead: Protecting Our Rights*, on November 1st. Both AAUW Maryland and Kensington-Rockville Branch are cosponsors. If you have interest in attending this event to hear about important proposals to protect and enhance the lives of women and families in Maryland, contact:

Anita Rosen
Public Policy Chair
anitarosen123@gmail.com

Anna Palmisano Continues to Press for Better State Inspections of Health Care Facilities

Anna is a member of our Branch and the Director of Marylanders for Patient Rights. *The Washington Post* published this letter on August 29, 2025.

OHCQ Oversight Is Needed

The Aug. 25 Metro article “Audit finds hazards at Md.’s adult day cares” exposed the abject failure of Maryland’s Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) to provide inspections for vulnerable adult day care attendees.

But this is just the tip of a much larger iceberg. For over a decade, OHCQ has failed to provide adequate oversight of Maryland’s health care facilities. According to national rankings from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Maryland has been consistently in the bottom 10 percent for hospital patient satisfaction, worst in emergency room wait time for almost a decade, and second-worst in nursing home inspections. And nursing home residents filed a class-action lawsuit against the Maryland Department of Health, citing many horrific examples of alleged neglect.

OHCQ needs to return to its vital function of providing active oversight of our health care

facilities to improve the declining quality of health care in Maryland. One possible solution is to create a stakeholder advisory council for OHCQ. This council would increase engagement and transparency and provide diverse perspectives to improve quality of care in Maryland. Council membership would draw from stakeholders including frontline hospital workers, nursing home care workers, residents, family members and patient advocates.

An advisory council would help restore public trust and provide constructive feedback to a troubled health care agency that Marylanders rely on for oversight and protection.

Anna Palmisano,
palmscience@verizon.net

AAUW National October Webinars and Events

Without Fear Conversation:

Dr. Keisha Blain & Gloria L. Blackwell
Wednesday, Oct 15, 2025; 3 to 4 p.m. ET

Lobby Corps Virtual Training

Thursday, October 6, 2025; 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET

AAUW Smart Start

Wednesday, October 15, 2025; 5 to 6 p.m. ET

AAUW Money Smart: Smart Finances

Thursday, October 23, 2025; 3 to 4 p.m. ET

Branches in Action: A Century of Advocacy, Fundraising, and Impact

Thursday, October 23, 2025; 4 to 5 p.m. ET

Defending Equity in Education: DEI Rollbacks & Curriculum Bans

Thursday, October 28, 2025; 2:30 to 3:30 ET

The AAUW Archives Corps Seeks You!

Do you enjoy discovering hidden treasures? Are you curious about AAUW’s amazing past? Would you like to make a significant contribution with no ongoing advance preparing?

If so, please join the fun, with other dedicated member volunteers from the DMV area who comprise the AAUW Archives Corps. We meet on the 4th Monday of alternate months at our national office at 1310 L Street NW, Washington, DC, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Training and ongoing guidance are provided so we can confidently process and preserve our historic past. Our important efforts make these records useable and accessible to present and future researchers.

Yes, much of what we do is scut work: removing staples, arranging papers chronologically (or in other logical sequence), culling duplicates, transferring the organized documents to acid-free folders. But, what a thrill it is to uncover an awesome, unusual, funny or long forgotten missing link.

My favorite find so far? A member/leader bequeathed Montana *gold mine* to AAUW in the 1970s (Then what? Still searching. . .)

Bring or buy your lunch nearby. There's a parking garage adjacent; or its about a five-block walk from the Farragut North or Metro Center Metro.

Questions? Ready to sign up? Contact:

Dian Belanger
dobelanger@comcast.net

The AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps Needs You!

Do you care if the now-fully approved **Equal Rights** Amendment actually gets added to the Constitution as the 28th Amendment?

Is it right that over half a century after **pay discrimination** became illegal in the United States women working full time are still paid 83 cents for every dollar earned by men?

Why are we last among developed nations to provide **paid family and medical leave** for all?

If you are feeling called to *do* something positive in these challenging times, consider joining the AAUW Lobby Corps, which has actively advocated on Capitol Hill since 1975. Member volunteers, well trained and briefed by AAUW public policy staff, visit assigned congressional offices, in pairs (newcomer with someone experienced), to promote nonpartisan progress towards a more just nation.

Training lately has been virtual, with in-person briefings in the appropriate House or Senate

cafeteria prior to the day's visits. Written position papers and talking points are emailed in advance. It's pretty easy. It's truly rewarding—well, sometimes frustrating. It always matters.

The Lobby Corps currently works just two mornings per month when Congress is in session—on Thursdays, but individual dates may vary if needed.

Questions? Please ask. I've been at it, not continuously, since 1975. Maritsa George joined a year or so ago. Her enthusiasm will sweep you away!

Dian Belanger
dobelanger@comcast.net

Interest Groups

Le Groupe Français

We will begin a new reading and welcome new participants to join us by ZOOM, meeting on Monday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m. PLEASE RSVP to raspivack@gmail.com

We will read *La Bourse* by Honoré de Balzac. The story is contained in the author's *La Comédie Humaine*. Link to the reading:

https://beq.ebooksgratuits.com/balzac/Balzac_03_La_bourse.pdf

ZOOM Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88611044596?pwd=aW5FRHhmc2lZQ0F0UkdhTtDqRzVadz09>

Great Decisions

Anita Rosen anitarosen123@gmail.com

Bobbe Mintz bobbeandherb@comcast.net

Our next discussion will take place Friday, October 31st at 10 a.m. in the Derwood Room at Ingleside King Farm. We will be discussing Chapter 7, *AI and American National Security*. All are welcome, in or out of costume, and are encouraged to join in for lunch at the Cafe afterward. The Video Master Class will be on ZOOM Thursday, October 30th at 7 p.m. The URL will be sent prior to the meeting. If you would like to join in, contact Anita or Bobbe.

What Is Great Decisions?

What is an AAUW Great Decisions discussion Group? It is a group of interested and interesting people focused on world affairs and foreign policy based on a briefing book and video series produced annually by The Foreign Policy Association.

For instance, at our September meeting, we discussed Chapter 6 of the briefing book *The Future of NATO and European Security* after viewing the related video the evening before on zoom.

Armed with this background information, we energetically discussed wars and European history going back to the 1500s “Gun Powder Empires” and past examples of unipolar powers. We discussed the purpose of NATO, its successes and issues, its changing membership and, questions such as: Can Europe be made secure without U.S. involvement? What is the value of European states having their own strategic autonomy without any reliance on the US? And, “How would the current implementation of defense and aid to Ukraine from the U.S. and European states change if Ukraine were a part of NATO?”

Participants always bring their own experiences to share. No one needs to be an expert, and the monthly subjects change (e.g., India: Between China, the West, and the Global South; and American Policy in the Middle East). Most participants join together afterward in the Ingleside Café for lunch and socializing. We may not solve all the problems of the world, but we do gain new knowledge, understand the world a little better, and enjoy the good company. Feel free to join us at Ingleside on October 31st at 10 a.m. for AI and American National Security. For more information, contact Anita Rosen at: anitarosen123@gmail.com

Suggestions From Linna Liberchuk

Watch these two videos at www.c-span.org/bookTv

“The Constitution Can Unify Our Nation” with Yuval Levin;

“Seeing is Believing? American Hoaxes and Scams” with David Baron and Leah Sottile

The Program of the National Book Festival can be found at www.loc.gov/bookfest.

On the topic of “How AI can be used to address global challenges” our branch members can conduct an experiment. We can ask the GPT Chat for advice on, or solutions for, our current crisis, political polarization, problems, challenges, etc., then we can compare/exchange/share AI messages. Why? To see how this innovative AI technology can control our reality.

Do read the article titled “Samuel Huntington is Getting His Revenge” regarding “the break-glass moments of American History” and the crisis of civilizations: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2025/02/21>

2026 AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference Plans are Falling Into Place

The Program Committee is putting together a dynamic lineup of speakers for this event, to be held at the Lancaster, PA, County Convention Center and Marriott Hotel, September 25-27, 2026. The event builds on last year’s wonderful event in Virginia. A block of rooms is now available for booking:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1758841025555&key=GRP&app=resvlink;!!FOfmI8qiWcWBHqypJtzENF0!ytBxRkqyN8HUmUJfNYj3moemAZaTWjQRS8yILvsig5HIJcjISQoNemYhW_UuKVYvRN22-qcBnONMIkkCharFX4r224chUkg\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1758841025555&key=GRP&app=resvlink;!!FOfmI8qiWcWBHqypJtzENF0!ytBxRkqyN8HUmUJfNYj3moemAZaTWjQRS8yILvsig5HIJcjISQoNemYhW_UuKVYvRN22-qcBnONMIkkCharFX4r224chUkg$)

(Is that the world’s longest website link?)

More information regarding the details of the event will be provided in subsequent newsletters.



To: All Kensington-Rockville Members and Guests

From: Charlene Currie
Assisting Dian Belanger

SUBJECT: Fall 2025 AAUW MD MEETING
Saturday, October 18
Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park
Hosted by AAUW Anne Arundel County Branch

The Maryland Fall Conference will be our monthly meeting in October. At the branch meeting in September, several members said that they will attend or are very interested in attending, and some agreed to drive.

We need to continue the logistical planning for the trip to Severna Park on October 18. We want to hear from all of you who are interested in attending, primarily to figure out how we can get there and back as efficiently as possible. Ingleside at King Farm and Leisure World are the two starting points clearly needed at this time. There may be others.

Details of the meeting are in the Fall 2025 **Marylander**, where you can register and pay. The theme for the morning session is **Maryland's Native Americans, Past and Present**. Doors will be open from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Lunch is at 12:30, and the board meeting begins at 1:15. All attending members are invited to the board meeting. Some members may prefer to leave after lunch.

Name & Phone _____

Address/Neighborhood _____

Will you go? Please answer the following: (Yes) _____ (No) _____ (Maybe) _____

Will you need a ride (Yes) _____ (No) _____

Leave after lunch _____

Leave after board meeting _____

Can you drive (Yes) _____ (No) _____ How many passengers _____

Leave after lunch _____

Leave after board meeting _____

Please answer questions above and return to me by email, cmcurrie9@gmail.com. Or call me at 301-613-2442, and we can work it out over the phone.