

# Mt. Vernon Voices

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls  
through research, education, and advocacy.

Volume 65 Issue 1 September 2021

Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



A sizzling summer is winding down and autumn is around the corner. Mt. Vernon AAUW is ready! We're back! Mt. Vernon AAUW will have in-person programs at Sherwood Regional Library this fall! The library is open and most of you are vaccinated. We expect to wear masks and will follow library safety protocol. It will be great to see you!

In June we had a great group of members at Heritage Presbyterian Church for our planning meeting and we completed a compelling lineup of programs. Thank you to **Solveig Eggerz** for her leadership as VP for Programs. The programs we planned are based on the votes that you sent to me before the meeting.

Take a look at the **2021-22 Program Chart** on

**page 9.** You will notice that in the winter months we will go back to Zoomed programs. You will be able to stay in the warmth of your home to participate. This is one of the positives that came out of last year's struggle.

**Joanne Clark** will lead us on many **Impromptu Events**. She will schedule the outings and you can join when possible as we visit the Gum Springs Museum, Alexandria Black History Museum, and other locations in which you have indicated interest. Thanks to Joanne for volunteering to do this.

All members of our board members are returning except for **Kathi Hanrahan** who has obligations to another organization. I thank **Elaine Kolish** for stepping in as AAUW Funds Chair in her place.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## BRANCH PROGRAM KICKOFF - SEPTEMBER 18



Come to our **Save the Vote** panel discussion!

\*\*\*\*\* **Saturday September 18, 10:30 a.m.** \*\*\*\*\*

**Meeting Room Sherwood Regional Library  
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306**



Three panelists will focus on voting issues in Virginia:

- **Sue Worden** of the League of Women Voters will speak on LWV's greatest concern regarding voting rights and how to fix it.
- **Chris DeRosa**, the Arlington/Falls Church Chapter Leader of Spread the Vote, will address problems voters face regarding ID's and how her organization helps them.
- **Bettina Lawton**, Vice Chair, Fairfax Co Electoral Board, will address the status of voting legislation and rights in Virginia.

Among the questions the panel will consider:

- ⇒ How do Virginia voting rights compare to those of other states?
- ⇒ Who are the Watchdog Groups and what are they doing?
- ⇒ Should we be concerned about voter suppression and election subversion in Virginia?
- ⇒ What can we do to ensure a free and fair election?

Followed by audience questions.

All Northern Virginia branches of AAUW are invited to attend as well as the general library public.

# INTRODUCING YOUR 2021 / 2022 BOARD



Patsy Quick  
President



Solveig Eggerz  
Program VP



Mary Wall  
Membership VP



Anne Simpson  
Treasurer



Mary Ellen Mehler  
Public Policy Chair



Paula Lettice  
Secretary



Elaine Kolish  
AAUW Funds Chair

## BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2021 – 2022

### Elected Officers

<b>President:</b>	Patsy Quick
<b>Program Vice President:</b>	Solveig Eggerz
<b>Membership Vice President:</b>	Mary Wall
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Anne Simpson
<b>Secretary:</b>	Paula Lettice

### Appointed Chairs

<b>Bylaws:</b>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>AAUW Funds:</b>	Elaine Kolish
<b>Public Policy:</b>	Mary Ellen Mehler

<b>Newsletter/Website:</b>	Bianca Daugherty
<b>Newsletter/ Directory Distribution:</b>	Mary Ellen Mehler
<b>Nominating Committee Chair:</b>	Lois Passman
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Cathy Krebs

### Interest Groups

<b>Book Group:</b>	Liz Promen
<b>Dining Out:</b>	Paula Lettice, Cathy Conron, Bianca Daugherty
<b>Game Night:</b>	Cynthia Jacobus
<b>ImpromptEvent:</b>	Joanne Clark

**Contact Email:** [AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com](mailto:AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com)

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.

We have a number of volunteers to help out with our annual fundraiser at **the Little Theatre of Alexandria**. This year the fundraiser will take place on **January 14**, a bit earlier in the year than usual. Look for more information about that soon!

If you haven't yet paid your dues, please contact **Anne Simpson**, Treasurer, ([aseyedoc@gmail.com](mailto:aseyedoc@gmail.com)) to get that done. You can pay online or by check. In the past few years, we have won recognition for the high renewal rate of our members. Let's do it again this year!

2021-22 should be a great year! Join us at the September program! Renew friendships, meet new members, and hear a panel of professionals talk to the issue we are calling Save the Vote!

*Patsy*

## DUES ARE DUE

ANNE SIMPSON

**If you have not paid your dues for 2021-2022,  
the time is getting short.**

**AAUW dues were due June 30.**

As an AAUW member whose branch participates in the Membership Payment Program (MPP), you will be paying all of your dues - branch, state, and national - at once. There are two ways to renew:

**1. To renew online**

go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). Click Membership on the top of the page, then click MEMBERSHIP SERVICES DATABASE. Enter your MEMBER ID and PASSWORD. Once logged in, Select RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP on the left side of the screen and pay with your credit or debit card.

**2. To renew by check**

send **Anne Simpson** a check made out to Mt. Vernon AAUW for \$90.

1604 Old Drummer Boy Lane Fort Washington, MD 20744-4247

AAUW National Individual Membership dues are \$62, state dues are \$15, and branch dues are \$13.

**Don't forget that \$59 of your AAUW membership is tax deductible and you have access to exclusive discounts on insurance, hotels, prescriptions and more, as well as equity updates and opportunities to take action!**



## PUBLIC POLICY MINI GRANTS

MARY ELLEN MEHLER



### DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA TO PROMOTE EQUALITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS?

If you have an idea for a project that would fit the AAUW National or AAUW-VA public policy priority, please forward your suggestion to any of our branch board members. Such a proposal may qualify for a mini-grant funded by AAUW-VA. **The state board has voted to make a total of \$2000 available this year for mini-grants, which will be awarded in amounts of \$50 to \$500 each.**

An article in the Summer 2021 *Vision* announced the program. If you have questions or concerns about a prospective proposal, you may contact our state Co-VP for Public Policy, **Denise Murden**, at [denise.m.murden@gmail.com](mailto:denise.m.murden@gmail.com).

Branches are encouraged to collaborate on a project and apply in a single application. Projects may have started as early as July 1, 2021, and funds must be expended by June 30, 2022. **The hard-and-fast deadline for submission of the grant proposal is September 15, 2021.** The project topic may be anything that addresses the national or state public policy agenda of promoting equality for women and girls.

## ABOUT OUR PANELISTS

### Bettina M. Lawton—Vice Chair, Fairfax County Electoral Board

Bettina is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and Siena College, where she received a Bachelor of Business Administration, *magna cum laude*. Bettina is a member of WealthCounsel, a nationwide organization of small firm and solo estate planning attorneys committed to practice excellence. She is a member of the Fairfax Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Virginia State Bar and the D.C. Bar, and their respective sections for wills, trusts, and estate practitioners. Bettina is licensed to practice law in New York and Virginia before the U.S. Supreme Court.



Bettina serves her community as chair of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, as president of the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign War Blue and Gray Post 8469, and as a reserve deputy sheriff for the Fairfax County Sheriff Office.



### Chris DeRosa—Chapter Leader, Spread the Vote

Chris is a long-time resident of Arlington. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Hawaii and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Oregon. She taught for over 20 years in Fairfax County Public Schools as a special education teacher.

After retiring from Fairfax County Public Schools in 2006, she began a private tutoring business in Falls Church and began a "new" life as a volunteer to "give back" to her community.

Since 2017, Chris has served as leader of the Spread the Vote/Project ID's Arlington/Falls Church chapter, which strives to help people register to vote, request the restoration of their voting rights, and obtain their DMV IDs and DLs – most of their clients are homeless neighbors.

### Sue Worden—Alexandria League of Women Voters

Sue has been a member of the League of Women Voters since 1974, first in Massachusetts and since 1986 here in Virginia as a member of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. She has served as Voter Service Chair both for her local Massachusetts league and for Fairfax. She also served for 2 terms as the Voter Service Chair for the Virginia state League. During that time she co-chaired with AARP Virginia several state-wide television candidate debates for both governor and US Senate.

She is an active member of the LWVUS Lobby Corps. Most recently the Lobby Corps has lobbied Congress on various Voters Rights legislation. She graduated from Tufts University with an AB in political science.



### It Only Takes Two Minutes!

Join AAUW in urging Congress to improve and expand legislation protecting our civil rights, economic security, and access to education.

### Stand Up for Voting Rights!

On August 24, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives [passed](#) the **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4)**. The legislation now moves to the Senate — take action below to urge

your Senators to support this vital update to our nation's laws protecting the freedom to vote!

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

# FUNDING OUR MISSION THROUGH MEMBER DONATIONS!

AAUW, like many membership organizations, depends on donations, not just dues, to fund its mission. In particular, donating to the **AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)** allows AAUW to respond rapidly, with communications and advocacy, to critical issues affecting women as they emerge. Unrestricted donations also provide AAUW the dollars it needs to fund its groundbreaking research and advocacy to support fair-pay laws and other key equity legislation. This funding also goes to outreach work to help ensure that this work reaches the public by being covered by major media outlets such as the New York Times, CNN and Fortune.

Our branch has earned recognition for its past generosity. One of the Four Stars we received last year (July 2019—June 2020) was for **Advancement**. We hope to earn a star in **Advancement** again this year\* by meeting at least three of the five criteria below. But more important than the recognition is the fact that giving to Greatest Needs is a great way to ensure AAUW's continued visibility, relevance and sustainability.

<p><b>ADVANCEMENT</b></p> <p>*ONLY 3 REQUIRED FOR A STAR IN THIS AREA</p>	<p>Raise \$30 per member in FY22* towards the Greatest Needs Fund</p> <p>Increase contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund by 25% from the last fiscal year.</p> <p>Retain at least 90% of your branch membership.</p> <p>Increase Legacy Circle Membership in your branch by 10% over previous fiscal year.</p> <p>Make a branch affiliate contribution to the Greatest Needs Fund in honor of AAUW's 140th Anniversary</p> <p>*July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022</p>
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**We will be collecting donations at our Branch events, starting with our September 18 kickoff.** Checks should be made out to “**AAUW Greatest Needs**” and include your member ID. You can easily find your member ID through the AAUW Member Look Up function [here](#). If you prefer to mail a check, send it to AAUW Donations, 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005. You also can donate online at <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/>. On the donation form, please select “Use my gift where it’s needed most” to contribute to the Greatest Needs fund. (You have the option to select other funds if you wish).

AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)(3) charity, which can give you peace of mind that your money is well used. Tax ID: [52-6037388](#). Donations are tax deductible. We hope we can count on you!

*Elaine Kolish*  
**AAUW Funds Chair**



## BOOK GROUP



### **Book Group will meet on Monday, September 20**

**We will select our books for the year.**

Format: to be decided closer to the event. Either outdoor appetizers at **Elaine Kolish's** at 5:30 p.m. or Zoom meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Contact **Liz Promen** if you are interested in joining the group or would like more information. ([epromen2@gmail.com](mailto:epromen2@gmail.com))

## GAME NIGHT

Our Mt. Vernon branch holds a Game Night the **fourth Friday monthly at 7:15 p.m.** We play a great **variety of card games**—e.g., Uno, Hand & Foot, Golf, Cribbage, Kings in the Corner, but not Bridge or Poker—and changing **board games**—e.g., Rummikub, Mexican Train Dominoes, Clue, Scattergories, Chinese Checkers, Trivial Pursuit, Parcheesi, Ticket To Ride, Scrabble, to name a few—starting at **7:30 p.m. and ending close to 11:00 p.m.**

If you are interested in joining this year **2021-2022 until June**, please contact your **AAUW Game chair Cynthia Jacobus, 703-780-3806** (home land line) or [cynthiacobus@cox.net](mailto:cynthiacobus@cox.net). Please, previous Game

Night members, send me an e-mail if you are returning, and please confirm or up-date your contact information.

**In person or by Zoom?** I wish I knew for certain. I am certain the game night **WILL** be played the 4th Friday of each month. We were able to play on Zoom all last year, but we'd prefer to meet in person. We will be guided by the CDC.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html>. All previous Game Night members are fully vaccinated.

**Let the games begin!**

**Cynthia Jacobus**

### **Paula Lettice will be our first Game Night host on Friday, September 24, at 7:15 p.m.**

Paula will make the final decision as to whether it will be “in person” or “Zooming”.

**Spouses and significant others are welcome to join in!**



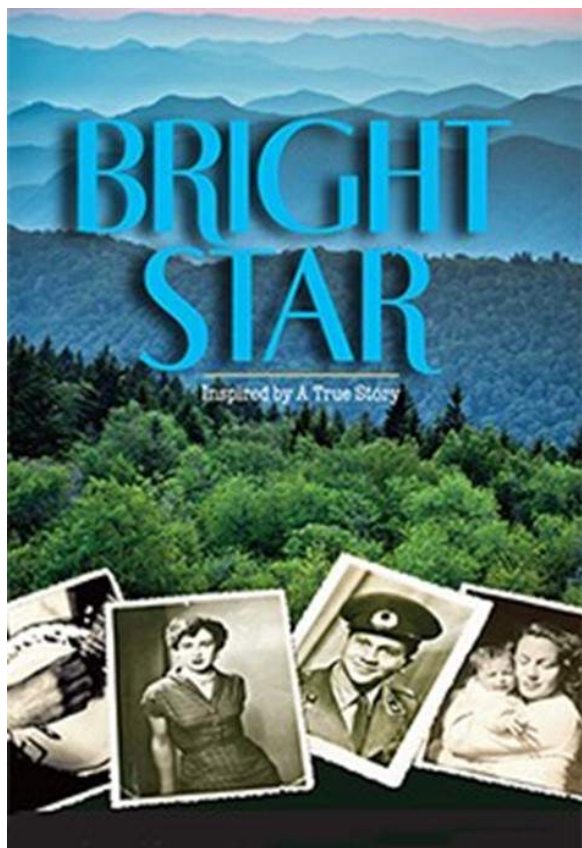
### **DINING OUT AT “CHEZ PAULA”**

Even though the Dining Out Group committee felt it was still not safe enough for the group to venture out to a restaurant due to COVID concerns, branch members were able to enjoy the Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week.

On August 27 members gathered at the home of **Paula Lettice** where delicious dinners from the Tempo Restaurant Week Menu were served.

Email [AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com](mailto:AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com) if you would like to join the group.

## LTA FUNDRAISER



**Mt. Vernon and Alexandria AAUW**  
Present a Fundraiser Performance

**Little Theatre of Alexandria**  
**BRIGHT STAR**

**January 14, 2022**

**7:00 p.m. Reception 8:00 p.m. Performance**

**Tickets \$35**

This Tony Award nominated musical created by comedy legend Steve Martin and Grammy winner Edie Brickell, is a sweeping tale of love and redemption set in the American South during the 1920s and 1940s. This emotional story weaves two chapters in the life of literary editor Alice Murphy and an ambitious young soldier just home from World War II. Their connection helps discover a stunning secret with the power to transform their lives. This original and inspiring musical, based on a true story, is propelled by a rousing country and bluegrass score.

**WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION COMING!**

## The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial is Open!!

**Come visit the newly finished Turning Point Suffragist Memorial!!** The Memorial is free, self-guided and open year-round at

**Occoquan Regional Park**  
**9751 Ox Road, Lorton.**

[www.turningpointsuffragistmemorial.org](http://www.turningpointsuffragistmemorial.org)

*This is the only suffragist memorial in the country to honor every single suffragist who fought from 1848 to 1920 and to tell the entire story of the suffragist movement.*

*TPSMA Executive Director/CEO Pat Wirth*

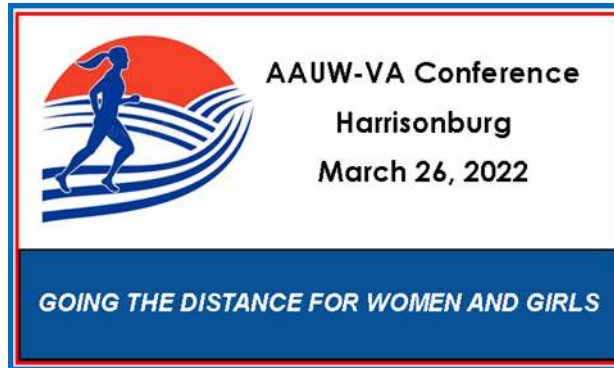


# 2022 AAUW of VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

Save These Dates

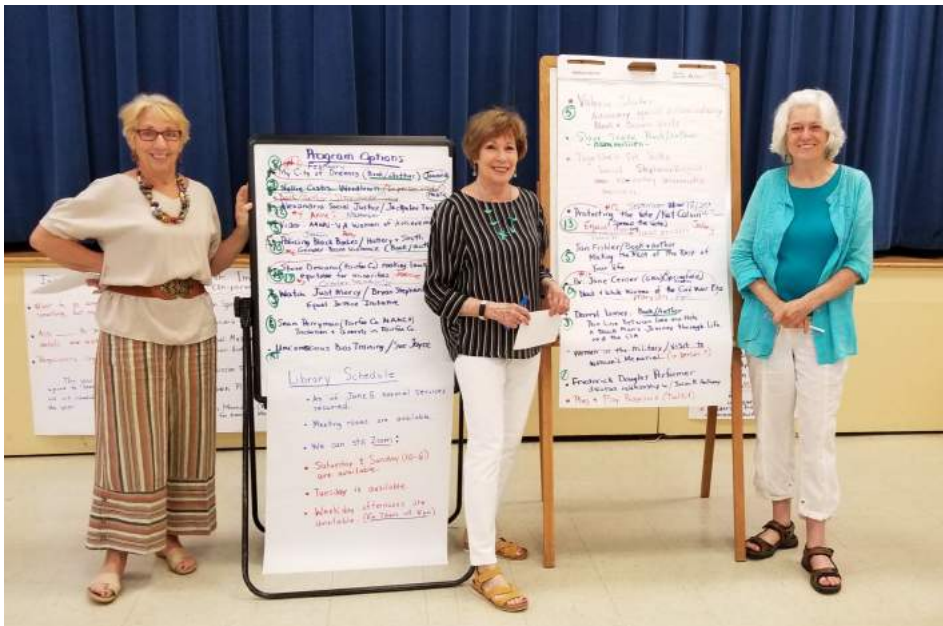
## 2022 AAUW of Virginia Conference

Part 1- Saturday, March 26, 2022, in-person at the  
Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley  
Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA



Part 2- Saturday, April 30, 2022, Virtual Annual Business Meeting

## A GREAT PROGRAM YEAR AHEAD



Our annual planning session was held on June 12.

Attending members discussed and decided on programs for the 2021/2022 branch program year.

A big thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

Pictured from left to right:  
**Joanne Clark**, ImpromptEvent  
**Patsy Quick**, President  
**Solveig Eggerz**, Program VP



# 2021 - 2022 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
<b>Saturday, September 18, 2021, 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Save the Vote</b> <b>Sue Worden</b> , Alexandria League of Women Voters <b>Chris DeRosa</b> , Spread the Vote <b>Bettina Lawton</b> , Vice-Chairman of the Electoral Board Fairfax County
<b>Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 7 p.m.</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Making Laws More Equitable for Minorities</b> <b>Pia Miller</b> Fairfax Co. Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney
<b>Saturday, November 20, 2021, 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Alexandria Social Justice Initiative</b> <b>Jacqueline Tucker</b> , Race and Social Equity Officer. <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/Equity">https://www.alexandriava.gov/Equity</a>
<b>December, Date and Time TBD</b> <b>Location TBD</b>	<b>Holiday Event</b>
<b>Friday, January 14, 2022,</b> * 7 p.m. reception * 8 p.m. performance <b>Little Theatre of Alexandria</b> 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	<b>LTA Annual Fundraiser</b>  <b>Bright Star (Musical)</b>
<b>Thursday, January 20, 2022, 4 p.m.</b> <b>Location ZOOM</b>	<b>Book and Author</b> <b>Policing Black Bodies</b> (Gender-based Violence) <b>Dr. Angela Hattery and Dr. Earl Smith</b>
<b>Saturday, January 22, 2022, 10 a.m.</b> <b>Location ZOOM</b>	AAUW-VA—DE&I Program <b>Creating Inclusive Spaces</b>
<b>Saturday, February 12, 2022, 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Location ZOOM</b>	<b>Book and Author</b> <b>My City of Dreams</b> , journey into uncovering the lives of her relatives long-lost to the Holocaust. <b>Lisa Gruenberg</b>
<b>Saturday, March 19, 2022, 9:30 a.m.</b> <b>Location TBD</b>	<b>Annual Business Meeting</b>
<b>April (3<sup>rd</sup> Week), Date and Time TBD</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Thursday, May 19, 2022, Time TBD</b> <b>Location TBD</b>	<b>Annual Potluck</b>
<b>June, 2022, Date and Time TBD</b> <b>Location TBD</b>	<b>Annual Planning Session</b>

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**October 9, 10 a.m.—12 noon  
Northern District Meeting**



We once again will have a virtual Northern District meeting.

**Program:** Meg Tuccillo of the Arlington Branch will present a video from **Jada Pinkett Smith's "Red Table Talk" program** on relations between women of color and white women. After the video, we will have a facilitated discussion using break-out rooms and then come back together to discuss.

**Business meeting:** After the program we will have updates from some State Board members. We will also learn about the revised **"Shape the Future"** membership discount and how your branch can use it to increase membership.

We also would like a person from your branch give a short update on upcoming branch activities and announce any special programs to which others are invited.

More information on registration and zoom link to follow.

Sandy and Sara  
Northern District Co-Representatives



**SEPTEMBER 2021**

- **8 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8678
- **18 Branch Meeting, 10:30 a.m.**  
Contact Solveig Eggerz  
703/203-0769
- **20 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Liz Promen  
703/780-7342
- **24 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Cynthia Jacobus  
703/780-3806

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Board Meeting	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Kickoff-Branch Meeting
19	20 Book Group	21	22	23	24 Game Night	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Check out our website <https://mtvernon-va.aauw.net/>

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mtvernonvaaauw/>

