



HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

SUMMER 2020

Branch Website
<http://aurora-il.aauw.net>

Branch EMAIL
aauwaurorail@gmail.com

National Website
www.aauw.org

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

Vision: Equity for all.

**Values: Nonpartisan.
Fact-based.
Integrity.
Inclusion and
Intersectionality.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Photos	2
Survey	3-4
Voting Ballot	5
Finances	6
Board Minutes	7
Public Policy	8-9
Five Star Program	10
Membership	11-12
Organization	13

Comments from Tracey's World

Oh how times have changed! In our last newsletter I ended by saying, "Here's to a New Year! Let's all resolve to add AAUW to our 2020 priorities! The future of women and girls depends on it!" Clearly, Pay Equity, Paid Family Leave, passing the ERA and our AAUW mission are still priorities, but I have gone in waves of action and inaction during this historic pandemic. With our programs cancelled in April and May, not only on the branch level, but at the state level as well; I found myself putting AAUW in the back of my mind and focusing on new schedules in the times of staying in place. It's disappointing putting lots of work and time into planning a program or event only to have it cancelled. Having to write something for this newsletter has forced me to focus on AAUW and also remember times before the pandemic.

Members that attended Girls Night Out at Mind and Body had a great time. Brunch at Little Traveler in Geneva was well attended, fun and delicious. Several members attended LUNAFEST and gathered for dinner and discussed the films. At our March program we learned about the issues faced by women and girls in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya and the work being done by Dignified Children International. Remembering these times with our group makes me smile and look forward to times when will be getting together again in the future. Maybe not this month or next, but we will be together again and we will cherish those times even more. In the mean time, let's focus on staying in place, staying healthy and connecting in different ways. How have you been doing during the pandemic? I would love to hear! Please take this brief online survey and let me know.

Click on this link <https://forms.gle/1SZuZaMRiTewC2S17>

And yes, our work as a branch still continues. You all received the slate of officers for our upcoming 2020-2022 elections. Here is a link that you can use to vote online <https://forms.gle/efH6AHD8Hxh82L43A>. Included in this newsletter is an option to mail in your ballot as well.

You will also be getting notices to renew your AAUW branch membership. Let's get those dues in at a record breaking pace this year! Our branch has already received 2 stars in the new 5 Star Program, and we can earn another one if members renew quickly. I know I can count on you!

Stay in place, be well, and reach out if you need anything!

Tracey Sherman-Falcon
President

AAUW Aurora Branch Events



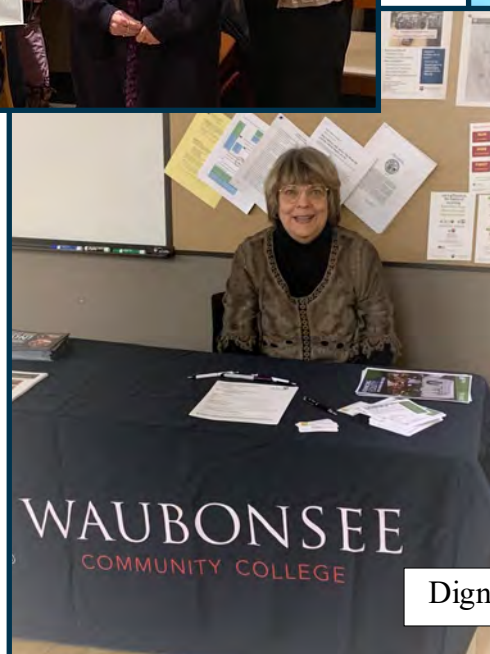
Gingerbread House Decorating



Brunch at the Little Traveler



Book Club



Dignified Children International

AAUW Aurora Branch Survey

We all are in unprecedented territory with this historic pandemic. We are staying in place, keeping our communities safe, but missing our interactions with fellow AAUW members as well as others. How are you doing during these times. The site to check in with site to use is:

<https://forms.gle/1SZuZaMRiTewC2S17>

The site works like a charm. However, if mail works for you, the questionnaire is included.

Name: (Optional, but helpful if we want to reach out to you.) Please clarify in your responses if you do not want to share with others. _____

1. Current Email _____

2. Is there anything you need or could use help with right now. _____

3. What is something you learned about yourself during this pandemic? _____

4. Did you take up a new hobby while sheltering in place? _____

5. Have you been helping your child/grandchild with e-learning? If yes, what's going well and what's been the most challenging? _____

6. If you're a current or former teacher, what advice would you share with parents/grandparents who suddenly find themselves in the role of teacher while the schools are closed. _____



7. How are you connecting with others while sheltering in place? _____

8. Have you tried any online platforms to connect with others during the pandemic? Like Zoom, Go To Meeting, FaceTime? How was your experience? _____

9. During the pandemic, have you been in a position to help others in your community? If yes, please share what you have been doing. _____

10. Is there anything else you would like to share with your AAUW friends? _____

AAUW Movie Study Group



Books-By-Night:



Our study groups will adhere to state mandates regarding Covid 19 restrictions. Remember the study groups are small groups meetings with more flexibility. Watch for emails in case an opportunity develops for a meeting.

2020 Vote

Our work as a branch still continues. You all received the slate of officers for our upcoming 2020-2022 elections. Here is a link that you can use to vote online

<https://forms.gle/efH6AHD8Hxh82L43A>

Following is an option to mail in your ballot as well.

Please Circle Your Answer Yes Or No.



President: Andi Danis *

Yes

No

3rd V.P. Communications: Nicole Benziger *

Yes

No

Secretary: Roberta Devorsky *

Yes

No

Assistant Treasurer: Vicki Petersen *

Yes

No

1st V.P. Programs: Lisa Wolancevich (Installed for the one-year remainder of the current term. Her Tenure would run from July 1, 2020– June 31, 2021) *

Yes

No

Treasurer Tracey Sherman-Falcon (to fulfill the remaining time of the Treasurer's term July 1, 2020-June 32, 2021) *

Yes

No

Required *

AAUW Branch Treasurer Report/Dues

TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF March 14, 2020

Ending Balance from 01/04/2020 \$2809.78

DEPOSITS: Deposits: Dues \$ 90.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS \$ 90.00 \$2899.78

EXPENSES: National/State Dues \$ 69.00

Programs \$ 260.00

Tracey S-F (Dec.) \$110.00

Yorkville Library (Mar.) \$ 50.00

Positive Media (Val) \$100.00

AHT Insurance \$ 190.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 519.00 \$2380.78

Balance as of 1/4/20 \$2380.78

Respectfully Submitted,

Andi Danis, Treasurer



Aurora Area AAUW Board Meeting
January 11, 2020
Harris Bank at Indian Trail and Orchard

Members Present: Joy Bowling, Nicole Benziger, Val Burd Andi Danis, Jerre Henriksen, Vicki Peterson, Tracey Falson-Sherman.

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Tracey Falcon-Sherman. Jerre Henriksen will be taking notes for Elaine Ross. Andi Danis moved that the minutes of the November 2, 2019 meeting be approved. Val Burd seconded that motion and the minutes were subsequently approved.

Lisa Wolancevich, Programs, was unable to attend the meeting due to a family illness. Both November and December programs were assessed. Andi Danis and Elaine Ross gave a well-received review of their travels to women's history sites in New York and Maine which commemorated the 100th Anniversary of women winning the right to vote. The facility where the November program was held served our group well for the Chili Supper. The attendees of the Gingerbread House Decorating and Ornament Exchange had fun and celebrated the holiday by decorating their own gingerbread houses. Both programs were viewed a success. February's "Mind and Body" event will also include a wine raffle of four bottles. The invitation will specify two times for recipients to arrive and receive their massages. March's event can be attended on two dates: March 11 or March 12. Our speaker, Emily Burd Thomas, has presented to the United Nations twice and will be speaking on *Empowering Girls and Women in Kenya: The Founding of Dignified Children International, Inc.* On March 11, the event will be at Waubensee Community College, Rm 147 Bodie Hall from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. On March 12, our speaker will be at the Yorkville Public Library starting at 3:00 pm.

The Aurora Public Library has asked if we would be interested in presenting a program in March, Women's History Month. We declined because the library promotional materials for March have already been issued. For better attendance, August 18 was suggested which is the actual date that the 19th amendment was passed.

Val Burd, Membership, reported that five new members have joined this year. Rita Alviar is our last new member. Val suggested that we place a one-quarter page ad in the Yorkville Chamber of Commerce Magazine which will cost us \$100.00. Andi Danis moved that we place the ad and Jerre Henriksen seconded the amendment. The motion passed. Val also questioned whether membership in Oswego and Aurora Chambers of Commerce is possible. Andi Danis will look into that matter. Val will also see if our Work Smart Program can be presented to members of the Yorkville Chamber.

Nicole Benziger reported that she will be changing our banner picture on our website to reflect recent events.

Andi Danis, Treasurer, indicated our balance is \$2809.78. Vicki Peterson, LAF/EF Assistant Treasurer, reported a balance of \$629.28. Our Virtual Tea Party Fundraiser raised \$1085.00. Thank you to Pat Daugherty for her work on that fundraiser. The Aurora Area Branch was able to send \$1400 to National as a named gift in honor of our branch president, Tracy Sherman-Falcon, who has done so much for our branch.

Jerre Henriksen reported the Winter Newsletter had been emailed. Members appreciated the 100th Anniversary pictures. The spring deadline is March 31st. Materials from members are due on March 23rd.

Joy Bowling, AAUW Social Chair, has sent out get well cards and birthday cards to membership as well as supporting monthly meetings and February's Opt In Opt Out Programming.

Andi Danis reported that the "Book It To Lunch" Study Group will be discussing *Becoming*, by Michell Obama, at 11:30 a.m. on January 23, 2020 at Panera Bread in Batavia. Our April branch meeting will use a book discussion format for the April program, which will feature the "Book It To Lunch" selection, *A Woman of No Importance*, by Sonia Purnell.

Movie group will be viewing "*The Pieces That I Am*" on January 20, 2020.

The Five Star Program presents goals for all AAUW Branches to reach. National AAUW has a link on its website which describes the program and clarifies its goals.

The Executive Board Members will form the Nominating Committee to slate the positions of President, Secretary, 3rd Vice President Communications, and Assistant Treasurer. Nicole Benziger and Vicki Petersen have agreed to remain in their respective positions. The nomination of Lisa Wolancevich as 1st Vice President Programs will be made for one year – in effect moving Lisa to the Executive Committee. The positions of President and Secretary remain to be slated.

The Regional Conference will be held on June 18 and 19th in East Moline. Nicole Benziger plans on attending.

The upcoming Board meeting will be held on March 14, 2020.

Joy Bowling moved and Vicki Petersen seconded that we adjourn which we did at 11:19 a.m.

AAUW Branch Public Policy

Comments from your Public Policy Chair

Hello to All AAUW Branch Members,

So much has not taken place that all of us anticipated would take place. We are not able to have our much-anticipated Regional Convention or our end-of-the year Branch meetings. Even the events surrounding Equal Pay Day had to be virtual events. Everyone has done her part, however, in keeping in touch electronically.

The major development is the continuing effort toward ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Yes, the efforts do continue and are closer than ever to completion. What is happening now, however, is complicated and involves about three different possible turns in these final steps. In order to follow what is currently occurring, you really need to **read the article that is included in this newsletter, “The ERA, Where Are We Now?”** The bottom line is that the Senate and/or the Supreme Court have the power to implement or prevent final ratification.

The approach that National AAUW is taking to go directly “at” the Senators up for re-election in Arizona, Colorado, Main, North Carolina, Georgia, Missouri, Kentucky, and Iowa. In other words, the strategy is to target the senators from these states who do not support **SJ Resolution 6**. November is the time for those of us to donate to AAUW to assist in its efforts toward these results. On February 13, the House of Representatives voted to remove the arbitrary deadline set for ratification of the amendment, so now things have moved to the Senate. If the Senate were to also vote to remove the time limit and the Supreme Court were to defer to Congress on this political matter, that would be the best outcome.

Other possible outcomes are far from explained in my short summary, so **I hope you read the full article.** Find out how South Dakota, Alabama, and Louisiana tried to prevent what was approved (when Virginia became the 38th state to ratify), and find out how Illinois, Nevada, and Virginia legally countered their vote. It’s stunning to read about the maneuvering that has occurred and still is.

Maybe some of you are watching the mini-series, *Mrs. America*, starring Cate Blanchett as Phyllis Schlafly on Hulu. I cannot think of a mini-series that is more timely for us right now and more entertaining but also sad!

Please consider the request from our President, K. Churches, to donate to AAUW. **Up to the end of May, our gifts to AAUW will be 100% matched by the Board of Directors and National Committee members.** Many other issues are urgent, too, so let us do our part as branch members to continue supporting the mission of AAUW.

See you all in the fall, I hope!

V. Elaine Ross



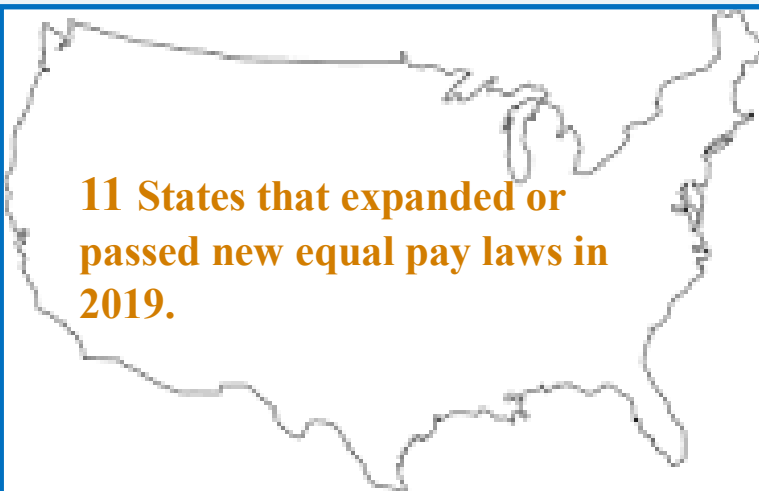
AAUW National By The Numbers



102,000 women trained in salary-negotiation skills in 2019 through our Work Smart and Start Smart programs.



300 Congressional offices targeted in our advocacy efforts for laws and policies that advance women and girls in 2019.



11 States that expanded or passed new equal pay laws in 2019.



4.3 million awarded to 270 scholars in fellowships and grants in 2019.

140 media outlets that reported on AAUW's work in 2019, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, National Public Radio, Times, Newsweek, Money, Fortune and more.

5 million social media impressions on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter for AAUW's campaigns and programs



More than 170,00 members and supporters bolstering our mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

THE AAUW PROGRAM

AAUW's Five-Star National Recognition Program rewards affiliates (states, branches and other organizations) for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and other initiatives that foster the organization's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls. The program will run from July 2019 through June 2021.

1. PROGRAMS— Host 3-5 strategic plan-related programs in 2020.
2. ADVANCEMENT— \$30 member gift raised * Shift focus in branch from fellowships and grants/LAF to greatest need focus areas by 50% * Retain 90% of branch membership and submit annual dues by September 30 * Increase the Legacy Circle Members
3. COMMUNICATIONS & EXTERNAL RELATIONS—All existing websites and social media presences include an Economic Security Focus and Work Smart Online.
4. PUBLIC POLICY & RESEARCH—Conduct an annual meeting with U.S/ Representative (s) and/or state legislators around a strategic plan area of focus *An alternative elected official is actable if circumstances warrant * Ensure a branch public policy chair is appointed who collaborates with the state public policy chair * Host at least one public event where Action Network sign-ups are collected.
5. GOVERNANCE & SUSTAINABILTY—Align planning with state and AAUW national strategic plans * Branch board institutes a succession plan to ensure new ideas and perspectives are included in future leadership.



Dear AAUW Aurora,

Thank you for your participation in the Five Star Recognition Program. After reviewing your submission, we are pleased to inform you that AAUW Aurora has received a star for Communications and External Relations!

We envision a bold future for AAUW that includes using technology to promote initiatives, share ideas, and build community with our members and allies. Your website exemplifies the value of technology in the fight for gender equity.

AAUW has made groundbreaking progress for gender equity through our training programs, impactful research, and bold advocacy efforts. This could not be achieved without the dedicated support of our members. With our continued partnership we will lay the groundwork for the next generation of women leaders.

Congratulations and we look forward to your continued success in the Five Star Recognition Program.

Sincerely,

Kendra L. Davis
Senior Vice President, Advancement and Partnerships

Our branch has already received 2 stars in the new 5 Star Program, and we can earn another one if members renew quickly. We can do this!

Membership Renewal Form

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



Annual membership dues are **\$ 90**

National: \$ 59*

State: \$ 10

Branch: \$ 21

Total Dues: \$ 90

For those who are prepaid Life Members of the Association, dues will be **\$ 31**
(\$ 10 for State and \$ 21 for Branch)

Please check Membership Status:

☐ Annual (\$ 90) –Correct status for Most members

☐ Association Life (\$ 31)—status of only a few members who prepaid in the late 1980's

Contribution to AAUW's Mission: \$ _____

Fund designated for your contribution: _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **AAUW Aurora Area Branch**

Mail To:

Andrea Danis

24 Scarsdale Rd

Montgomery, IL 60538-2517

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

CELL _____

E-MAIL _____

Please select communication preference:

___ I prefer to receive newsletters and reminders via email. (This is the most cost effective for the branch.)

___ I prefer to be reminded of meetings via email.

___ I prefer to receive newsletters via regular mail.

___ I prefer to be reminded of meetings with a phone call.

*AAUW National Individual Membership dues are \$59:

\$56 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution, and \$3 is not (because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c)(4) Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities).

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

New Member Registration Form

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



Annual membership dues are **\$ 90**

National: \$ 59*

State: \$ 10

Branch: \$ 21

Total Dues: \$ 90

Please make checks payable to **AAUW Aurora Area Branch**

Mail To: Andrea Danis
AAUW Aurora Area Branch
24 Scarsdale Rd
Montgomery, IL 60538-2517

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

CELL _____

E-MAIL _____

COLLEGE INFORMATION

SCHOOL NAME _____

CAMPUS LOCATION (CITY, STATE) _____

HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED _____

GRADUATION DATE (MM/YYYY) _____

Please contact 800.326.2289 or connect@aauw.org for information about Student Memberships.

Please select communication preference:

☐ I prefer to receive newsletters and reminders via email. (This is the most cost effective for the branch.)

☐ I prefer to be reminded of meetings via email.

☐ I prefer to receive newsletters via regular mail.

☐ I prefer to be reminded of meetings with a phone call.

*AAUW National dues are \$59, of which \$56 is tax deductible. The remaining \$3 is not deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's section 501(c)(4) Capitol Hill advocacy work and get-out-the-vote activities.

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

Board Meetings/Membership

Branch Board Meetings : Saturdays @ 9:00 a.m..

Harris Bank on Orchard Rd/Indian Trail, Aurora

June 27, 2020

Stay Connected with the AAUW Aurora Area Branch

Not on Facebook? We still have our branch website at www.aurora-il.aauw.net. The homepage features announcements, latest branch news and upcoming events. There also are sections that explain the AAUW and our branch, how to become a member, branch activities and a newsletter archive.

President

Tracey Sherman-Falcon

Membership—2nd Vice President

Valerie Burd

Treasurer

Andi Danis

Assistant Treasurer

Vicki Petersen

Programs

Lisa Wolancevich

Communications—3rd Vice President

Nicole Benziger

Secretary

Elaine Ross

AAUW Funds/Yearbook

Pat Daugherty

Newsletter Editor

Jerre Henriksen

Social Chair

Joy Bowling

