



HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

FALL 2020

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

Branch EMAIL
aauwaurorail@gmail.com

National Website
www.aauw.org

We are tenacious and trailblazing—advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future.

Mission: Gender Equity & Economic Security

Values: Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.

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Comments from Andi's World

HELLO AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH!

It seems like forever since we blissfully gathered at Little Traveler's for a wonderful brunch and joined with WCC students to hear Emily Burd Thomas and her colleague speak to us about their work in Africa for Dignified Children International. And now our reality looks vastly different than it did before Covid so rudely interrupted our lives.

So, we will do what resourceful women have always done – we will adapt! We could not complete our full program year, but we have carried on with our work throughout the summer. Your Board has met virtually, the Movie Group and Bookin' It to Lunch group are both operating via ZOOM, and Pat Daugherty is busy preparing the new yearbook for us. And yes – the Program Committee has planned a wonderful lineup of events that will take us through May 2021, hopefully with some meeting in-person and others meeting virtually. The key word to operating this year is ... FLEXIBILITY!

We will need to be flexible: to watch for and respond to the E-vites that Vicki Petersen prepares for us each month; to check email for last-minute updates regarding locations or dates; to be willing to entertain new ways of gathering. Last year we celebrated our 100th Anniversary as an official branch – that puts the first year of our branch right at the onset of the 1919 Spanish Flu Pandemic. And yet – the branch survived and thrived! And we will survive and thrive through this year as well.

I am excited about our kickoff meeting in September; there is additional information about it in this newsletter. We are going to try to take advantage of the warmer weather and meet in person – in a socially distanced and responsible manner. Bring your fold-up chair and we will spread out – we have a pavilion reserved and can also use the surrounding open area. We will provide boxed lunches and bottled water, but feel free to bring your own food and/or drink if you prefer. Pat will have our yearbooks for us, and we will talk about all things VOTING! But again, we must be flexible and willing to consider other options if conditions change.

Thank you so much for your continuing support of AAUW and for all that you bring to our Aurora Area AAUW community. Please feel free to contact me any time with questions, suggestions, critiques, etc. I am honored to serve as your President and look forward to a unique, but wonderful, AAUW year.

Andi Danis
President

2020-2021 Program Dates

Date: September 26, 2020

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Program: Get Out the Vote

McAllister's Deli Lunch and Water Provided,

Bring Your Own Lawn Chair,

Location: Bliss Woods Shelter #1

5S660 Bliss Road

Sugar Grove, IL 60554



Rules for shelter usage: No alcohol, No bands or amplified music, No campfires, No pony rides, No moon jumps, All pets must be on a leash. Please clean up the shelter before you leave.

Date: October 15, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Program: Equal Rights—Speaker will be Steve Anderson , an expected Profiles in Courage awardee for his work with equal rights. Bring a friend. Zoom can host up to 200 people for this event.

Date: November 19, 2020

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: TBD

Program: Chili/Spaghetti Dinner with Jeopardy Activity centered on Notable Women.

Date: December 12, 2020

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Place: TBD

Program: Ginger Bread Ornament Exchange— Limit of 14 houses. The cost of the houses is \$10.00 per house. Everyone needs to bring a bag of candy to share for decoration.

Evites will be sent out for monthly branch programs to all members. Study group hosts and committee chairs can check the evites at any time for reservation updates. Also, be sure to click “Message from host” for more details about events, including registration fees.

Programming Continued

Date: January 21, 2021

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: TBD

Program: An Evening with “**BOOKIN’ IT TO LUNCH!**” The topic is the book *A Woman of No Importance*, by Sonia Purnell

Date: February 18, 2021

Time: Brunch 11:00—2:00 (Meet at 10:45)

Place: Little Traveler

Program: Social Event and Strictly Dependent On Health Conditions

Date: March 18, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Santori Library, 101 South River Street, Aurora, IL 60560

Program: Meeting with Elected Officials (TBA)

Date: April 15, 2021

Time: 5:00

Place: TBD

Guest Speaker: Financial Security for Women—Guest Speaker, Shelly Syphen from Edward Jones

Date: May 15, 2021

Time: Noon

Place: TBD

Program: Annual Business Meeting with Speaker To Be Determined

Study Groups

AAUW Movie Study Group for 2020-21 @ 6:15 p. m

This group generally meets the second Monday of each month to view a film on video at members' homes, preceded by a potluck and desserts. A great discussion follows. Movies, chosen by each hostess, are selected to support women artists and/or to address the mission and objectives of AAUW. The meal begins at 6:15 p.m., with the viewing at about 7:00.



To begin this year, we will be showing the films via Zoom meetings. All of you will be notified of every film by the Evite system, but you will be notified when in-person meetings can begin again. If anyone needs instruction in how to join a Zoom meeting, instruction will be provided by a fellow-member. It's fun—and *almost* personal.

Everyone is to RSVP to the hostess and to watch their email notifications and updates. All Branch members are welcome to come once or to attend every meeting,

Sept. 14, 2020

6:15 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Film

Hostess: Pat Daugherty

Movie: *Sámi Blood* 2016

Genre: Drama: About a Sámi girl who breeds reindeer but, at the same time, faces the racism of the 1930s at her boarding school; in order to escape and reach her dreams, she must become someone new and break with her family and culture.

Stars: Maj-Doris Rimpi, Olle Sarri, Ánne Biret Somby

Dir./Writer: Amanda Kernell

October 12, 2020

6:15 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Film

Hostess: Penny Cameron

Movie: *The Wife* 2017

Genre: Drama: The great writer, Joe Castleman, goes to Sweden to accept the Nobel Prize for Literature, his lifetime goal and achievement. He is supported by his *wife*, ever at his side and always looking on. Many interesting characters connect with the joyous and solemn occasion, but others look on with skepticism. So . . . what does "the wife" really think?

Stars: Glenn Close, Jonathan Pryce, Christian Slater

Director: Björn Runge

Writer: Jane Anderson (screenplay), Meg Wolitzer (novel, *The Wife*)

Movie Group Continued

November 9, 2020

6:15 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Film

Hostess: Denise Curts-Lueth

Movie: *Harriet* 2019

Genre: Drama/History: The extraordinary tale of Harriet Tubman's escape from enslavement and her transformation into an American hero for the ages. Her courage, ingenuity, and tenacity helped free hundreds of those enslaved and changed the course of history. Erivo received an Oscar nomination for Best Actress for her powerful performance.

Director: Kasi Lemmons

Writers: Gregory A. Howard and Kasi Lemmons (screenplay)

Stars: Cynthia Erivo, Janelle Monáe, Leslie Odom, Jr.

December 14, 2020

6:15 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Film

Hostess: Karel Thompson

Movie: *Crazy Rich Asians* 2018

Genre: Romance/Comedy: This contemporary romantic comedy, based on a global bestseller, follows native New Yorker Rachel Chu to Singapore to meet her boyfriend's family. So many "rich" and rich characters have an opinion about the match. Is it a match to last or to break down all the family ties and traditions?

Director: Jon M. Chu

Writers: Peter Chiarelli and Adele Lim (screenplay)

Stars: Constance Wu, Henry Golding, Michelle Yeoh, Lisa Lu, Awkwafina

January 11, 2021

6:15 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Film

Hostess: Joy Bowling

Movie: *A Ballerina's Tale* 2015

Genre: Documentary: This feature film tracks the amazing life and achievements of Misty Copeland, who became the first African-American to become a principal dancer with the NYC Ballet Company. Her potentially career-ending injuries and her struggles with body image and self-concept are shown in-depth, as are her prodigious successes that conquer the elite ballet world.

Director: Nelson George

Stars: Misty Copeland, Deirdre Kelly, Susan Fales-Hill

February 8, 2021

6:15 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Film

Hostess: May Keenan

Movie: *Emma* 2020

Genre: Romance/Comedy: Jane Austen's classic has had many filmed versions; this one is especially funny and wicked, with a great lead performance by Taylor-Joy. Set in 1800s England, a well-meaning but selfish and deluded young woman meddles in the love life of her friends, usually with disastrous results.

Director: Autumn de Wilde

Writers: Eleanor Catton (screenplay), Jane Austen (novel)

Stars: Anya Taylor-Joy, Johnny Flynn, Mia Goth

Movie Group Continued

March 8, 2021

6:15 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Film

Hostess: Linda Seyller
Movie: *The Good Liar* 2019
Genre: Crime Thriller: Consummate con man Roy Courtney has set his sights on his latest mark: the recently widowed Betty McLeish, who has millions. This time, what should have been a simple swindle escalates into a real cat-and-mouse game. The ultimate stakes are left in doubt as you romp through this fun thriller.
Director: Bill Condon
Writers: Nicholas Searle (novel), Jeffrey Hatcher (screenplay)
Stars: Helen Mirren, Ian McKellen, Russell Tovey

April 12, 2021

6:15 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Film

Hostess: Jerre Henriksen
Movie: *Be Natural: The Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blaché* 2018
Genre: Documentary: Pamela B. Green's energetic film about pioneer filmmaker Alice Guy-Blaché is both a tribute and a detective story, tracing the circumstances by which this extraordinary artist faded from memory and the path toward her reclamation.
Director: Pamela B. Green
Writers: Pamela B. Green, Joan Simon
Stars: Alice Guy-Blaché, Richard Abel, Marc Abraham

May 10, 2021

6:15 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Film

Hostess: Sandy Hipp
Movie: *The Vote* 2020
Genre: History/Documentary: This PBS documentary, from The American Experience series, tells the dramatic culmination story of the hard-fought campaign waged by American women for the right to vote—a transformative cultural and political movement that resulted in the largest expansion of voting rights in U.S. history. Each part of this two-part series is 113 minutes; thus, we can see the first and save the second for a later date.

June 14, 2021

5:15 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Film

Hostess: Elaine Ross
Movie: *Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice* 2019
Genre: Documentary: With one of the most memorably stunning voices that has ever hit the airwaves, Linda Ronstadt burst onto the 1960s folk rock music scene in her early twenties. The film shows her struggles and successes in that scene. We hear the music and commentary of many great performers and fellow-singers such as Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris, and Bonnie Raitt. You can hear, again, many of Ronstadt's greatest hits and performances.
Director: Rob Epstein, Jeffrey Friedman
Stars: Linda Ronstadt and an array of 1960s performers

Movie Group Continued

July 12, 2021

6:15 p.m. Social

Planning Mtg./Potluck

Hostess: Denise Curts-Lueth

Sources: The Independent Movie Database (IMDB), PBS Website, and Elaine Ross

BOOKIN' IT TO LUNCH! 2020-21 Fourth Thursday at 11:15 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 24 Mary Hinterlong's Backyard 126 S. Hankes Rd., Aurora
They Called Us Enemy, by George Takai
Please bring your own chair and your lunch/drink.



OCTOBER 22: Via Zoom
The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World, by Melinda Gates

DECEMBER 3*: Via Zoom
His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope, by Jon Meacham
* due to Thanksgiving

DECEMBER: NO MEETING

JANUARY 21: Via Zoom Start Time: 5:00 p.m.
A Woman of No Importance, by Sonia Purnell
This will be an all-branch program

FEBRUARY 25: Via Zoom
White Fragility, by Robin Diangelo

MARCH 25: Via Zoom
This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color, edited by Cherrie Moraga & Gloria Anzaldua

APRIL 22: Via Zoom
The Namesake: A Novel, by Jhumpa Lahiri

MAY 27: Via Zoom
Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland, by Patrick Radden Keefe

JUNE 24: Via Zoom
Heart Berries: A Memoir, by Terese Marie Mailhot

JULY 22: PLANNING SESSION

AUGUST 26: TBA
Separated: Inside an American Tragedy, by Jacob Soboroff

Zoom is the default "location" as of this planning, but subject to change as noted above or as conditions allow. Please watch for and respond to the E-vites so we can follow up with attendees regarding latest updates and information.

AAUW Branch Treasurer Report/Dues

Treasurer's Report as of

August 8, 2020

Ending Balance from 06/06/20		\$2660.56
Deposits: Dues:	\$ 702.00	
Total Deposits	\$ 702.00	\$3362.56
Expenses: National/State Dues:	\$ 345.00	
Programs:	\$ 149.90	
Zoom fee \$149.90		
Total Expenses	\$ 494.90	\$2867.66
Balance as of 8/8/20		<u>\$2867.66</u>

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Sherman-Falcon, Treasurer

American Association of University Women Aurora Area Branch

Audit for period July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020

Aug. 12, 2020

We, the undersigned members of the Auditing Committee have examined the books of the Aurora Area Branch for the year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. Bank deposit slips were checked to the monthly bank statements and to the receipt records. Cancelled checks were checked to the disbursement records and to the budget.

Treasurer's Account

The treasurer's account was found to be in good order, appear to be accurate, with no outstanding checks.

Account balance 7/072020 \$2471.66

Assistant Treasurer's Account

The Assistant Treasurer's account was found to be in good order, appear to be accurate, with no outstanding checks.

Account Balance 6/30/2020 \$629.28

Respectfully Submitted

Auditors: Denise Curts-Lueth

Pat Daugherty

AAUW Branch Treasurer Report/Dues

AAUW Aurora Area Branch 2020-2021

Recommended Proposed Budget

Carryover from 2019-2020 \$2105.66

Projected Additional Income:

Dues from 35 members @\$21 \$ 735.00

Total Available Revenue \$2840.66

Projected Expenses:

Conventions/Conferences \$ 200.00

Memorials: 2 @ \$25 \$ 50.00

Membership Committee \$ 200.00

Programs \$ 900.00

Printing: Yearbooks/ Newsletter \$ 100.00

President's Expenses \$ 75.00

Treasurer's Expenses \$ 75.00

Social Chair \$ 50.00

Insurance: Yearly Liability \$ 200.00

Board Reserve Fund \$ 990.66

Total Projected Expenses: **\$2840.66**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Sherman-Falcon, Treasurer



AAUW Branch Minutes

Minutes for Aurora-Area Board Meeting of August 8, 2020 at 9:00 a. m. Remote Zoom Meeting in Fox Valley, IL

In attendance:

Nicole Benziger, Joy Bowling, Valerie Burd, Andi Danis, Pat Daugherty, Roberta Devorsky, Jerre Henriksen, Vicki Petersen, Tracey Sherman-Falcon, and Lisa Wolancevich

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a. m.

Minutes:

The minutes from June 6, 2020 were approved with Tracey S. making the motion and all approving.

Treasurer's Report:

Tracey's report was reviewed. Primary activity was member dues and paid ZOOM fees. **The balance as of August 8, 2020 was \$2,867.66.**

Tracey also submitted the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2021. Tracey S. made the initial motion and Joy B. made the second motion. All approved no objections. The proposed budget will be presented to the membership at the September meeting.

Asst. Treasurer's Report:

Vicki P.'s report was reviewed. **The balance (in EF/LAF) is \$629.28**, with no changes from the previous meeting.

Programs:

Lisa W. presented the program for FY2021:

September 26 (Noon) - The location is pending for in the park luncheon. Tracey Sherman-Falcon and Joy Bowling will be speaking about voter registration and "Get Out the Vote" (<https://www.nonprofitvote.org/nonprofitvotescount/gotv-toolkit/>). Andi will order the Panera boxed lunches. (Possible site: Jericho Lake - bring your chairs - yearbooks will be passed out at that time).

October 15 (7 pm) - Via Zoom - Steven Andersson, former member of IL House of Representatives (65th District), will speak about the Equal Rights Amendment. "Get out the Vote" will run all month.

November 19 (5 pm) - The Courthouse in Yorkville (or via ZOOM), for a chili supper followed by Woman's History Jeopardy.

December 12 (Noon) - Old Second Bank (or via ZOOM). Gingerbread house decorating and ornament exchange (Need to indicate on the invitation for \$10 and a bag of candy to share).

January 21 (5 pm) - The Sugar Grove Library (or via Zoom). *A Woman of No Importance* from the Bookin' it to Lunch program will be reviewed.

February 21 (brunch) - The Little Traveler in Geneva, IL.

March 18 (time TBD) - A Conversation with our Legislators at the Aurora Library with the panelists discussing the importance of women voters.

April 15 (5 – 7 pm) – via ZOOM - Shelly Sypien, from Edward Jones to speak on women's economic security.

May 15 (Noon) - Fox Bend in Oswego, IL for a presentation and discussion with a scholarship winner. Election and installation of officers will also be held.

Jerre will be making a postcard with a summary to "Save the Dates" for the upcoming programs with a goal of being mailed on/around Labor Day.

Minutes Continued

Lisa will submit a full and final outline of programs for the yearbook. She also added a note to her files about follow up with Work Smart and the Yorkville Chamber of Commerce which due to COVID has been delayed.

Membership:

Valerie B. reported that the Yorkville Chamber of Commerce Magazine is out with over 10k issues were mailed to residents and roughly, 2000 were given out. A PDF will be distributed to members via Nicole and Valerie will bring roughly two (2) dozen to the September meeting.

Valerie asked everyone to refer to her anyone they think would be interested in joining and members can invite people in other states to sign into our Zoom meetings if they are interested.

Membership report made by Tracey S. with membership renewals going well. Only five (5) members have not renewed so that individual follow-ups will be made to each of them.

Communications:

Nicole B. reported that the website has been celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th amendment on the August 18 which will also include an email to membership. She will find and add a link to a two (2) hour presentation from Aitogether.org about the subject. (<https://aitogether.org/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqvTL2xvM0g>).

Clarification of hosting ZOOM meetings was discussed as well as the challenges of possibly double-booking meetings under the same account. For movie group, content will need to be streaming sources not DVDs. This needs to be stressed and communicated with the hosts (Both Jerre and Pat have DVDs.).

Nicole is awaiting the transition of National's new website, the new colors/logo. National has control of updating branch websites (now there are 250 content pages). Nicole is now using the newly designed colors/logo. As noted during the July meeting, the rollout that is being done in phases--with branches to follow over time (tentatively October/November 2020).

Please continue to share stories with Nicole on "notable" members. She is still collecting and sharing them.

AAUW Funds:

Pat D. and Vicki P. stressed the need for a virtual fundraiser again this year. The idea of a virtual dinner with a menu (something that the Chicago, IL branch has done in the past) was presented. Joy B. suggested the TEA BAG Fundraiser last year. It was successful! We may do it again this year! A follow up meeting will occur to discuss more details on the theme. Target date is still early November.

Public Policy:

Tracey S. stressed her goal for public policy is to communicate more as well as more often. National is still sending the Two- Minute Activist emails. Tracey has a new public policy co-chair at the state level. Tracey is posting on Facebook, sending emails, and awaiting postcards for the September event.

Social Chair:

Joy B. gave her report which was submitted for the meeting (will issue a corrected report to include Tracey who received a card, but it was not included on the report).

Newsletter:

The cadence of the newsletter going forward was discussed with a tentative September 2 (before Labor Day) publication date for the next issue. **The deadline will be August 23** for submissions for the next newsletter so that it goes out before fall "events" begin. Andi needs to submit an article. Tracey will submit a "recommended/proposed" budget which must be approved by membership as well as her August board report.

Minutes Continued

Yearbook:

Pat D. is awaiting the final submissions for the yearbook. **The deadline for a member to be included in the yearbook will be August 31.** Costs are likely to be up due to increased delivery needs. Members may continue to stay-at-home and self-isolate, so Pat said she will work to have the yearbooks distributed by members to avoid mailing all of them. Initial delivery will be at the September meeting.

Study Groups:

Bookin' it to Lunch has technologically adapted. The July meeting was a success via ZOOM. The next meeting is August 24 at 11:15 am on The Collected Schizophrenias: Essays, by Esme Weijun Wang.

Weather permitting, the September meeting is scheduled for Mary Hinterlong's backyard with social distancing.

Movie Study Group will be on ZOOM. The first one will be *The Leisure Seeker*, on August 10 at 6:15 pm.

Additional Reports as Needed:

The Audit should be completed next week of August 10 per Pat D. For FY2019 to 2020, the treasurer's account showed a balance on July 7 was \$2,471.66. The Asst. Treasurer's account is simpler. A formal report will be presented in September.

The Five Star Branch Recognition Program has been extended for another year per Andi D. Aurora, IL has two (2) stars (One for advancement and one for communication). This year we need to get three (3) more stars. Schaumburg has all five (5) stars (the first and only branch in Illinois). In order to achieve the other three (3) stars we need to be very targeted.

One star is for **programs** (We need to incorporate 2 – 4 strategic programming items related to economic security; women's leadership, or operation equity). The April 2021 Edward Jones presentation by S. Sypien will satisfy for women's economic security and the Reading for Results program will be satisfied by the Library meeting in January 2021. (So, this star would be satisfied)

The **public policy** star will be achieved when since we have shifted focus on the March 2020 panel from local council members and invite local state legislature as well as have an action network signup (in September). Note for March event, proposed panel to include invitations to our two (2) members as well as Hernandez and Underwood.

The **governance and sustainability** star is already partially met by our website/programs. The last part is a branch board succession plan. A written plan about how leadership perpetuates into the future. This is a future discussion item. National has a template that needs to be reviewed.

Old Business:

Per Joy, go to whenweallvote.com to make sure addresses/registrations are updated.

New Business:

Going forward, there is a new process for board reports: Roberta is the collection point for reports. Everything will be sent to Roberta and then blasted to the team in one email.

Next board meeting date: *October 24, 2020 at 9 am via ZOOM.*

Tentative future board meeting dates (awaiting state calendar):

January 23, 2021

March 20, 2021

June 26, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Devorsky, Secretary

AAUW'S LONG HISTORY OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Did you know that AAUW has been working for equity and equal rights for **100 years**? After all, AAUW was founded for the express purpose of fighting for women's equal access to education, especially higher education. Take a look at some actions from our amazing past:

- 1921 lobbied for independent citizenship for married women (!)
 - 1922 lobbied for access to contraceptives for married women
 - 1922 advocated to allow women in the diplomatic service
 - 1935 lobbied to legalize the dispensing of contraceptive information by physicians
 - c.1942 created a refugee aid fund for Jewish women refugees from Germany and other Nazi-held countries; helped Jewish women professors who had been fired find positions in the U.S.
 - 1949 amended the national bylaws to clearly state all college women graduates were entitled to membership regardless of race or religion—16 years before the Civil Rights Act. (AAUW never prevented anyone from joining, but it became clear some branches were refusing membership to women of color. The bylaws were amended to make it clear branches could not do that.)
 - 1962 established the African Educators Program that for almost 20 years gave African women educators, primarily high school teachers, professional development opportunities in the U.S. to address the shortage of teachers in Africa. Branches in the U.S. hosted these women.
 - 1964 and 1965 lobbied for passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.
 - 1969 created the Coretta Scott King Fund to support opportunities for black women to study African-American history and culture
 - 1969 began lobbying for a woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court (that only took 12 years—AAUW is persistent)
 - 1972 instrumental in the passage of Title IX, co-authored by Patsy Mink of Hawaii, an AAUW member
 - 1987 admitted men to membership (first proposed in 1979)
 - 1988 appointed a Diversity Chair to the national Board with a committee of diverse members
 - 1989 adopted AAUW's Diversity Statement: "AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability." All national, state, and branch publications must include this statement. (Later wording added gender identity, geographical location, and socioeconomic status and changed "creed" to "religious beliefs.")
 - 1991 initiated the AAUW Initiative for Educational Equity with *Shortchanging Girls/Shortchanging America*, which was followed throughout the 90's and into this century by researched publications on bullying in schools, gender equity in STEM, discrimination in higher ed tenure, and 2015's *Bias and Barriers: Women in Leadership*.
 - 1993 after 7 years of lobbying and support, the Family & Medical Leave Act passed
- The more recent years have seen continuous work on equal pay and benefits for all women, fighting discrimination of women in higher ed and the workplace, and women's success in STEM fields. Today 2/3 of fellows and grant recipients are women of color or represent religious or ethnic minorities, as is 52% of the national staff.

Compiled by Caroline Pickens, AAUW Archives Corps & past Virginia State President

AAUW Washington Update

As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on and we increasingly focus on the November election, we cannot lose sight of the compounding injustices of sexism and racism. On August 13, we commemorated Black Women's Equal Pay Day, when Black women finally caught up to the earnings of white, non-Hispanic men from the previous year alone. In addition to the economic insecurity that the pay gap brings, women of color are also overrepresented in the essential workforce, and Black and Hispanic pregnant women are five times more likely to be exposed to COVID-19. This is an unacceptable and unconscionable reality, but it is only the tip of the iceberg of life-threatening issues facing families as they plan for a new school year during a pandemic.

While exhaustion is inevitable, the fights for racial justice and gender equity continue in our communities. We need advocates like you to be well-informed and persist. *We must keep the momentum going for everyone!*

Act — Take action on the most pressing policies

The data collected during a census is used to inform congressional seats and the distribution of federal funding for vital services. In April, the Secretary of Commerce formally requested an extension of the statutory reporting deadlines to address challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. After initially receiving bipartisan support, the request has now been rejected by the White House. Urge your Senators to act to ensure that everyone is counted in the 2020 Census.

Social media is a powerful tool to contribute to the national conversation, and we need your voice! Join AAUW on Twitter to amplify the conversation around #SaveTheUSPS and #ProtecttheVote. Connect with us [@AAUW](#) and [@AAUWActionFund](#) to see example messaging!

Learn — Dig deeper into the issues that matter

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is a vital public agency. It is responsible for delivering medicine and other essentials as well as facilitating mail-in voting – critical functions during the ongoing public health crisis and with a national election in less than 10 weeks. Yet the federal government is undermining this service by removing infrastructure and curtailing employee overtime.

On Friday and Monday, the Postmaster General appeared in front of the U.S. House of Representatives to answer questions about the recent changes to the USPS. The House also convened an emergency session last Saturday and passed the Delivering for America Act (H.R. 8015) with bipartisan support. The bill would:

- Provide \$25 billion to the USPS for direct emergency relief.
- Require that election mail be handled as “first-class mail.”
- Halt the removal of high-speed mail-sorting machines and neighborhood collection boxes and reverse previously implemented changes that would delay mail delivery.

Now the Senate must act. But they went home until after Labor Day.

With a crisis looming for the USPS, record unemployment, an impending housing and eviction catastrophe, and our most vulnerable populations getting hit hardest by the pandemic, it is inexcusable that our senators are not responding appropriately. The “skinny” relief bill released last week, entitled Delivering Immediate Relief to America's Families, Schools and Small Businesses Act, is woefully insufficient. The Senate must follow the House and pass both the Delivering for America Act and the HEROES Act to provide necessary relief for ailing Americans and the vital services we depend on.

Engage — Share the important work we're doing

The Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) is an important tool for tracking and ensuring equal educational opportunities and compliance with federal law. AAUW joined with our partners at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights to demand that we preserve the scope, frequency and public accessibility of that information.

Using a provision in the CARES Act designed to help low-income students face the current public health crisis, the U.S. Department of Education proposed a rule that will instead require public school districts to divert funding to private school students. AAUW and our partners strongly oppose this proposal.

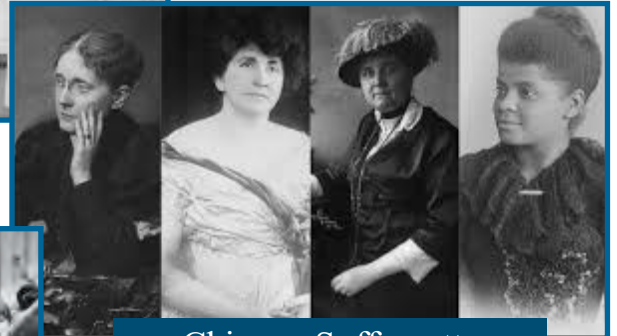
Please support the AAUW Policy Team in advocating for you by completing this 30-second survey: tell us your voting access concerns!



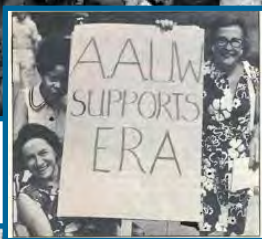
Seneca Falls



The Suffragettes



Chicago Suffragettes



The Feminists



Today

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.

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.

Remember to take and share photos at branch programs, study groups and events. These photos are posted on both Facebook and the branch website. It is best to send those photos to our branch email address at aauwaurorail@gmail.com so they do not get buried in my personal email account. Whenever possible include who is in the photo from left to right and a sentence or two explaining where the photo.

Reservation Policy– AAUW Aurora Area Branch

Our branch uses evites to manage reservations for branch events. Evites will be sent out for study groups, committee meetings and monthly branch programs to all members. Study group hosts and committee chairs can check the evites at any time for reservation updates. Also, be sure to click “Message from host” for more details about events, including registration fees.

Please be sure to update evites with your RSVP. Social Chair Joy Bowling will be making follow up phone calls to members who have not RSVP'd to monthly programs. Reservations for a meal are binding. No-shows and those canceling less than 48 hours in advance are still responsible for payment. A prompt mailing of your check to our Treasurer, Andi Danis, will be appreciated.



Board Meetings/Membership

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

October 24, 2020

January 23, 2021

March 20, 2021

June 26, 2021

President

Andi Danis

Vice President, Program

Lisa Wolancevich

Treasurer

Tracey Sherman -Falcon

Assistant Treasurer

Vicki Petersen

Co-Vice President, Membership

Val Burd

Communications Vice President

Nicole Benziger

Secretary

Roberta Devorsky

AAUW Funds

Pat Daugherty

Newsletter Editor

Jerre Henriksen

Social Chair

Joy Bowling