



# HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH  
CELEBRATING 101 YEARS

SUMMER 2021

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

Branch EMAIL  
[aauwaurorail@gmail.com](mailto:aauwaurorail@gmail.com)

National Website  
[www.aauw.org](http://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.**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Programs                 | 2-3   |
| Study Groups             | 4-6   |
| Treasurer                | 7     |
| Public Policy            | 8-9   |
| Minutes                  | 10-12 |
| Organization Information | 13-16 |

## Comments from Andi's World

HELLO AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH!

Happy Spring!

The weather is moderating a bit and many of us are getting vaccinated! Hopefully, that means that soon we can gather again, albeit with appropriate safety measures still in place! In fact, be sure to watch for your invitation to our May wrap-up meeting: we plan to gather at Bliss Woods, with box lunches and masks.... but IN-PERSON – hooray! We just must hope the weather cooperates and that the pandemic gets farther behind us.

But before that, we have a lot going on!

April will be a busy month and one with lots of opportunities to tune in to great programs. Of course, we have our usual study groups: Movie group meeting on April 12 and Bookin' it to Lunch on April 22. We also have our branch program on Thursday April 15 at 5:00 where we will hear from financial advisor, Shelley Sypien, on Economic Security for Women.

Also available and highly recommended: The District #5 branches are presenting their 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Fellows Presentation on Saturday April 17

at 1:00 p.m. Normally they hold this event at Lamb's Farm, which is a wonderful setting (with a great candy shop – I will miss the chance to purchase their delicious toffee!) This year it will be virtual, but all the easier to join in and hear presentations by four of our local fellowship and grant winners. I heard them all present at another event and can tell you that these four women are doing amazing research and community work – well worth your time!

And then – yes – there will be an AAUW-IL, Inc. State Convention this year.... on Zoom! It will run April 23-24, Friday evening and all-day Saturday, with a great line-up of speakers and workshops. More details will be forthcoming. There will be no cost to attend, but you must register in advance. Please get this on your calendar and plan to attend some or all the offered selections; your State Board is working hard to put together a meaningful and worthwhile alternative to our normal in-person event.

## Comments from Andi's World—Continued

In March we held an informal, on-line chat with State Rep. Barbara Hernandez about her experiences running for election, and serving, as a woman of color. We were a small group and she talked candidly with us about the discrimination she faced and the barriers she overcame to obtain her goal of being able to serve her community. We also heard how the legislation she is writing and supporting is working to provide equity for women and girls. I want to thank Tracey Sherman-Falcon for working with Rep. Hernandez' office to make this happen, and for Tracey and her Co-Director of AAU-IL, Inc. Public Policy, Paula Perdue, for updating us on AAUW's priorities in Springfield!

And finally, I want to urge all of you to vote in the upcoming National election: April 7 – May 15. A link to the online ballot should come via email – please watch for it! The question of expanding membership is on the ballot, as are modifications to the wording of our Public Policy priorities, which are driven by the membership.

As always, 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.

Andi Danis, President

AAUW Aurora Area Branch

## 2020-2021 Program Dates

### **Date: April 15, 2021**

Time: 5:00

Place: TBD

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

### **Date: May 15, 2021**

Time: Noon

Place: TBD

Program: Annual Business Meeting with Speaker To Be Determined

## Programming—Continued

# Fundraiser



### Holy Pierogi!

AAUW Aurora Area Food Truck Fundraiser

6/04/2021—4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Churchill Clubhouse—273 Bluegrass Pkwy, Oswego, IL 60542

## State Convention April 23-24

### **EQUITY EMPOWERS** ***SPEAK OUT FOR EQUITY!***

Friday evening Michelle Duster, great granddaughter of Ida B. Wells, will speak on confronting systemic racism. Saturday morning begins with an AAUW update followed by an Annual Business Meeting and two additional speakers, Kimberly Stratton and Dr. Gretchen Goldman. Ms. Stratton is an engineer who will focus on STEM. Dr. Goldman will speak about the impact of the pandemic on women.

The Spring edition of *Link* will be coming out with additional convention details.

The convention is free of charge.

# Food Truck Fundraiser

Benefitting



**Churchill Clubhouse**  
**273 Bluegrass Parkway, Oswego, IL**

**June 4, 2021**  
**4:30 - 7:00 pm**

Pre orders are encouraged for easy and fast pick up.  
Text your order to (630) 897-0817 the day before the event (6/3/21)  
until 2:00 pm the day of the event (6/4/21)

**The Food Truck with  
Pillowy Polish Treats!**



Follow Us



## MENU



### Pierogi Choices:

- ① Farmers Cheese & Potato
- ② Potato & Cheddar Cheese
- ③ Kraut, Potato, & Bacon
- ④ Pork    ⑤ Kraut, Mushroom

### Toppings:

Bacon  
Sour Cream  
Grilled Onions with Chipotle

Tray of 4 \$6.00

Tray of 6 \$8.00

Pop \$1.00

# 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,

**April 12, 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

## Movie Group Continued

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

July 12, 2021

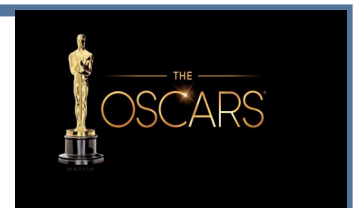
6:15 p.m. Social

Planning Mtg./Potluck

Hostess: Denise Curts-Lueth

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

## Nominations



Competing for best picture are “the Father,” “Judas and the Black Messiah,” “Mank,” “Minari,” “Nomadland,” “Promising Young Woman,” “Sound of Metal” and “The Trial of the Chicago 7.”

Two women were nominated for best director for the first time ever with Chloé Zhao (“Nomadland”) and Emerald Fennell (“Promising Young Woman”). They will compete against Thomas Vinterberg (“Another Round”), David Fincher (“Mank”) and Lee Isaac Chung (“Minari”).

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

**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.

Questions: Contact Andi Danis at [danishouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danishouse@sbcglobal.net)

### 2020 Pulitzer Prize Winners

**Fiction** - *The Nickel Boys*, by Colson Whitehead (Doubleday)

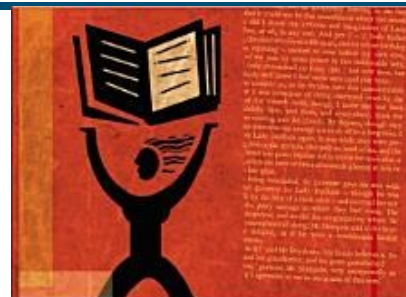
**Drama** - *A Strange Loop*, by Michael R. Jackson

**History** - *Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America*, by W. Caleb McDaniel

**Biography** - *Sontag: Her Life and Work*, by Benjamin Moser

**Poetry** - *The Tradition*, by Jericho Brown

**General Nonfiction** - *The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America*, by Greg Grandin



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.

# AAUW Branch Treasurer Report/Dues

## Treasurer's Report as of March 20, 2021

Ending Balance from 1/23/21 \$2,368.75

Deposits: none

Expenses: Yearbook printing \$127.49

Pie for presenter (programs) \$11.96

Total Expenses: \$139.45

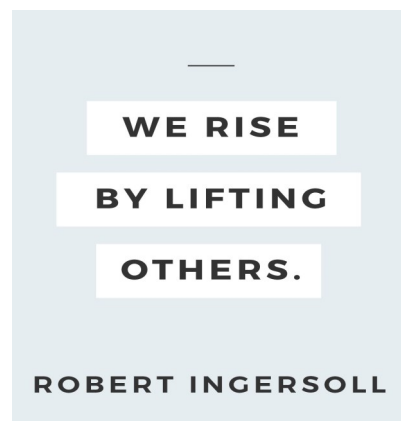
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## Assistant Treasurer's Balance as of March 20, 2021

AAUW Funds Balance: \$684.28

Submitted by:

Vicki Petersen  
Assistant Treasurer

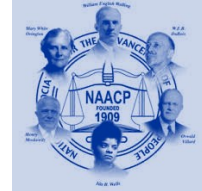




# AAUW Public Policy

The Illinois Senate Legislative Black Caucus has addressed the longstanding root causes of racial inequality and passed the most comprehensive legislative package in the nation to rid Illinois of systemic racism. The Black Caucus built their legislation four pillars:

- Criminal justice reform, violence reduction and police accountability
- Education and workforce development.
- Economic access, equity and opportunity
- Health care and human services



HB 2170 addresses disparities in education and workforce development for Illinois' Black population.

HB 3840 eliminates health care disparities for people of color

HB 3653 criminal justice and police reform

The highly controversial criminal justice reform bill, (HB 3653) was signed into law by Governor JB Pritzker on February 22, 2021. Why is AAUW talking about this? Finding how this bill fit into our mission was difficult, however, the AIDS Foundation Chicago opened our eyes by putting it in these terms. “Racial justice is health justice. We must engage in the work that roots out racial injustices and inequities with the same fervor and passion that we fight for equitable access to health care for all Illinoisans. It is undeniable that racism has a tremendous impact on the very social determinants that keep our communities safe and healthy. Systemic racism is so deeply rooted and ingrained in every sector of our society, from health care, housing and transportation to social services, education, and the criminal justice system.”

This is the first step in righting the systemic wrongs that have directly and indirectly impacted the people of color in our communities.

Now on to more legislation that we are trying to also get passed. We have shared the need to repeal the parental notice of abortion law that is currently in place. We encourage you to tell your legislators to make Illinois 100% pro choice and trust youth with their health care decisions. We are also trying to pass the REACH Act (Responsible Education for Adolescent and Children Health Act.) along with the Illinois Healthy Youth Act (IL HYA) Both bills are seeking to update the personal health and safety education in all grades to make sure they are inclusive, comprehensive, medically accurate and age appropriate.

Please remember that our mission to advance gender equity for women and girls does not happen without public policy. Stay engaged and remain active.

Tracey Sherman-Falcon and Paula Purdue  
Public Policy Co-Chairs, AAUW IL

# AAUW Public Policy Report

## Public Policy Report

AAUW Aurora Area Branch

3/20/21

### Emails to branch members:

Call to action for witness slips for REACH Act

Call to action to contact legislators to Repeal the PNA

Elaine Ross wrote letter to Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) on behalf of AAUW re: culturally responsive teaching and leading standards that was submitted by our lobbyist.

Emailed a few members to ask them to write an LTE re: the Paycheck Fairness Act, received no response.

Emailed the Equal Pay Dates to Nicole for social media and Lisa with possible program ideas for Equal Pay Day awareness

### Facebook Posts:

PNA op ed piece

Menstrual hygiene acts

Family Act

Town hall on membership

Reach Act

Illinois Council on Women and Girls committee

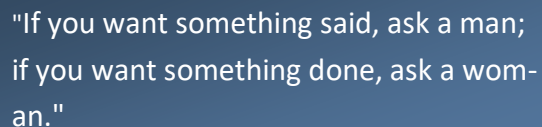
Springfield Branch program on Intersection of Race and Gender

International Woman's Day discussion on economic recovery

ERA

### Program:

3/14/21 Public Policy and Pi(e) with IL State Rep. Barbara Hernandez. Sent pie to Rep Hernandez' office, Andi set up the zoom and promoted to other branch presidents, there were 12 attendees, and sent thank you card to Rep Hernandez.



"If you want something said, ask a man;  
if you want something done, ask a woman."

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Sherman-Falcon

Public Policy Chair

# AAUW Branch Minutes

## Minutes for Aurora-Area Board Meeting of March 20, 2021 at 9:00 a. m.

### Remote Zoom Meeting in Fox Valley, IL

#### **In attendance:**

Nicole Benziger, Valerie Burd, Andi Danis, Pat Daugherty, Roberta Devorsky, Jerre Henriksen (abbreviated), Vicki Petersen, and Tracey Sherman-Falcon

#### **Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a. m.

#### **Minutes:**

The minutes from January 23, 2021 were approved. Tracey moved to approve. Nicole seconded. All approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Tracey's report was reviewed. Primary activity was due to printing costs of the yearbooks and a pie purchase for the presenter for the March program. The check order was successfully delivered and received. The balance as of March 20, 2021 was \$2,229.30.

#### **Asst. Treasurer's Report:**

Vicki P.'s report was reviewed. The balance (in EF/LAF) is \$684.28.

#### **Programs:**

March – Tracey S. invited the presenter IL Representative Barbara Hernandez to tell her story. It went well.

April (virtual with guest speaker) – Speaker confirmed.

May (Shelter at Bliss Woods, May 15 – 11:30 am) – Tracey to reserve the shelter. Andi to bring boxed lunches and Nicole to bring water. Agenda will include branch updates, a review of the state convention as well as the national election.

The state convention will be April 23 and 24. It will be virtual and free.

The fellowship recipients can be heard on April 17 virtually from District 5. Vicki will send out an evite to remind us of upcoming events.

#### **Membership:**

Valerie B. had nothing new to report.

Andi received an inquiry via the general branch email inbox and sent her some information. She has yet to receive an update. Val to follow up.

Tracey S. is going to contact the state membership team who will forward membership information to Representative Hernandez.

## **Minutes—Membership Continued**

Andi reviewed the upcoming national membership agenda item which includes the national ballot amendment. Andi held a vote on the resolution for the board to recommend the vote for the amendment on the national ballot. Val made the initial motion. Tracey seconded. There were five ayes and two abstains.

### **Communications:**

Nicole suggested doing Facebook event for the upcoming branch meeting. There will be a request to reach out to the branch email to get the ZOOM link and more information.

Andi is forwarding information to Nicole related to setting up a Twitter feed.

### **AAUW Funds:**

Nothing new.

Tracey S. spoke about using her husband's food truck for fundraising purposes for the branch or as an event (with 10% of the proceeds going to AAUW). Possible sites include Oakhurst (Nicole B.). Nicole is still pending research.

Joy is submitting to her clubhouse for the food track to come Friday, June 4. This will be the opening day of the pool. (Churchill Club in Oswego)

### **Public Policy:**

Tracey S. reviewed her public policy report.

The March branch event with IL State Rep. Barbara Hernandez had 12 attendees which included two (2) members from other branches.

Andi reviewed the public policy priorities and the wording changes. The priorities for the year include several word change recommendations, submitted by members. Please review the information prior to the national election.

### **Social Chair:**

Joy B. submitted her report and it was included in the board meeting packet. Andi reviewed it.

### **Newsletter:**

The next newsletter will be published on April 1.

Therefore, any items need to be delivered to her within the week. March minutes will also be included. As well as the most recent Treasurer's report and something on Public Policy.

### **Yearbook:**

At this time, there is nothing new.

### **Study Groups:**

**Bookin' it to Lunch** has technologically adapted. The February meeting was a success via ZOOM. The next meeting is March 25 This Bridge called my Back by Cherrie Moraga & Gloria Anzaldua.

**Movie Study Group** will be on ZOOM. The next one will be The Ballerina's Tale on April 12 (Joy B. & Nicole B. co-hosting).

### **Five Star Programs:**

We already have two stars: Communication & External Relations and Advancement.

## Minutes —Five Star Program Continued

After the April program: Andi can submit for the Programs star as well as Public Policy & Research star. Nicole can enhance the website so that the branch programs align with the strategic national plan (This will satisfy the Governance & Sustainability star.)

The five stars are: Programs; Advancement; Communications & External Relations; Public Policy & Research; and Governance & Sustainability.

### Old Business:

Nominating Committee: Publish by April 15 (We need a slate). We still need a VP for Membership. Roberta is willing to be co-VP for Programs. (Since that time, she has withdrawn.)

### New Business:

Succession plan reviewed for the purpose of submission into the Five Star program. This will be submitted to membership for the May agenda.

Luna Fest (to be discussed in more detail at the Programming committee meeting in the summer) - The new platform due to COVID-19 will assist with streaming. Occurs in February with events throughout the year.

Tracey let us know that she sent Joy B. as a nominee for the Agent of Change award into State for review.

**Next board meeting date:** Saturday, June 26 at 9 am via ZOOM.

**Future branch meeting dates** (awaiting state calendar): April 15 and May 15, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Devorsky, Secretary



# Membership Renewal Form

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



Annual membership dues are **\$ 93**

National: \$ 62\*

State: \$ 10

Branch: \$ 21

Total Dues: \$ 93

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 (\$ 93) –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:

Tracey Sherman-Falcon

446 West Park Ave.

Aurora, IL 60506

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 \$62:

\$59 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, 2021 - June 30, 2022



Annual membership dues are **\$ 93**

National: \$ 62\*

State: \$ 10

Branch: \$ 21

Total Dues: \$ 93

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

Mail To: Tracey Sherman-Falcon  
AAUW Aurora Area Branch  
446 West Park Ave.  
Aurora, IL 60506

## 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](mailto: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 \$62, of which \$59 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](http://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](mailto: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, Tracey Sherman-Falcon, will be appreciated.





# Board Meetings/Membership

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