

Bulletin

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

www.aaufortwayne.org www.indstate.edu/aauw-in www.aauw.org
presaaufortwayne@gmail.com

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch Annual Meeting and Brunch

Saturday, March 2, 2024 Cost: \$25.00

Girl Scout Service Center 10008 Dupont Circle Drive East, Fort Wayne, 46825

Girl Scout Cookies will be available for purchase between 10-10:25am.

10-10:25 am
Arrive, Check-In, Mingle
10:30 am Brunch available
11:00 am Speaker

The AAUW Fort Wayne Branch will hold its annual meeting with election of officers and present branch recognitions on Saturday, March 2. Our featured speaker, **Lisa Maatz**, will come to us via Zoom to share the latest updates on policy, legislation and efforts being made that advocate for women. Please **bring questions** to our meeting as Lisa is encouraging member engagement. Our breakfast brunch will be provided by Walnut Hill Catering Company.

We hope to see everyone to elect new officers and honor our members. Guests welcome!

Your reservation and \$25/person must be received no later than Monday, February 26, 2024.

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2024 AAUW Fort Wayne Branch Annual Meeting Reservation Form

Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 10:00 am

Your reservation and \$25/person **MUST be received by Monday, February 26, 2024.**

Member Name: _____

Guest #1 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email of Guest #1: _____

Guest #2 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email of Guest #2: _____

Guest #3 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email of Guest #3: _____

Total Number Attending: _____ x \$ 25 each meal = Total Check Amount: \$ _____

Mail this form and your check payable to: "AAUW Fort Wayne Branch"

To: Rhea Ervin, 4150 Hexhill CT, Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Ph: 260-43 8-9318 Email: raervin07@gmail.com

Check # _____

Pay online at <https://aaufortwayne.org/online-payments/>

NOW

*is the best time to Recruit
New AAUW Members!*

*Every AAUW member is a
part of the membership
team. Experience tells us
that new members who are
recruited by our own
Branch members become
active and **stay** in AAUW.*

**Grant Applications
accepted**

January 1 through February 28.

*The Grant Application Form and
instructions for applying may be
found on the web site
at: <http://aaufortwayne.org>.*

Program – Save the Dates!

By Stephany Bourne, Director of Program
slbourne1@gmail.com or (260) 515-3290

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Location is TBD

The Program Team needs your help! We are looking for a venue for our May meeting/event. The Fort Wayne Country Club is out of our price range. Do you know a place that could seat 50-70 people, either provides catering or allows catering into the facility? Contact Stephany ASAP.

AAUW Trust

Join the AAUW FW Trust at their public meeting to hear reports on 2023-24 grants and award 2024-25 grants. This is always a wonderful meeting to hear about the impact of our grants in the community.

Monday, April 29 at 6pm at IVY Tech 3800 N. Anthony BLVD.

Branch Board Meetings

Meeting dates for 2023-24 were decided at the April 10, 2023 Board Meeting. Start time is 6:00 pm. Location is Ivy Tech Community College.

Monday, May 13 Monday in June/July is TBD

Watch your email prior to each board meeting for the agenda and additional details from presaaufortwayne@gmail.com.

Please note: The new President's email address is presaaufortwayne@gmail.com. Both of us have access to the email address to answer your questions. The Bulletin is emailed from that address – be sure to check your junk/spam folder and mark the address as “safe” so that you get the Bulletin and other important messages.

2023 Silent Auction Fundraiser Update

By Barb Kanning, AAUW Funds

On December 2nd, we had a very successful silent auction. We raised \$1,015.50 that morning! That will support the registration fees for two attendees to NCCWSL, an AAUW national leadership conference.

A huge THANK YOU to you for your many donations; the variety was great! And a second THANK YOU to our generous women who bid and donated.

NCCWSL's Mission

The mission of AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is to foster a moment that ignites a powerful movement. Year after year, our conference brings together hundreds of college women from across the nation for an immersive multi-day experience of leadership training, inspiration, and networking. We strive to cultivate an inclusive and equitable space where attendees can enter as passionate leaders and depart with the skills, confidence, and perspective necessary to pursue their goals and drive meaningful change. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/nccwsl/>



Zoey Carver from GOAL y Amigos was selected to attend the conference in 2023. She attended our December event and shared her experience with us. She loved the conference.

"This conference was so fun I'm really glad I got to go. Everyone was really welcoming and I met a lot of really cool people. I learned a lot about owning my accomplishments which I think I really needed because I struggle talking about everything I do and feeling like I'm bragging. I also learned a lot about how and where to apply for internships and work in research. Soooooo happy I went, made a lot of friends from all over the country including Puerto Rico!!

NCCWSL provides the opportunity for young women to connect with like-minded individuals outside of their immediate community and empowers them to make the change they want to see."

Zoey Carver

Ivy Tech Community College

Voting and Advocacy

By Nancy McCammon-Hansen

This year we have the opportunity to vote in two elections. This is a right that many in our world don't have but that far too many people in our nation take for granted. That's one reason why I am a member of the League of Women Voters.

Women's rights have been on the top of my "interest list" ever since I graduated from college and began my career. I had no idea when Mastercard sent me a credit card (that I did not request) that keeping that card in my own name and separate from my spouse would be so difficult. Apparently MC thought I had the brains to handle my debt if I was single but not when I married.

This was just the first of a number of eye-opening experiences of my twenties that occurred from 1974 onward. Needless to say, I learned how to write some pretty pointed letters and who best to complain to if I didn't get an adequate response. I had no idea our society didn't respect women any more than it did at that time...and still doesn't in far too many instances. Thus my interest in politics as it affects the female gender.

I think that in all my years of voting, there has been only one election that I have missed—a primary because we were moving out of state at that time. But a mayoral race, governor's race, House & Senate on both the state and national level, city council and President—I'm there. I even worked for the Allen County Election Board one election.

So where is this leading? Well, for one thing, Bobbie Weikle did us a big favor by handing out the Advocacy Check List at our holiday brunch. There are lots of ways to be involved and you don't always have to leave the house to participate. If you write a letter to an elected official about an issue you are concerned with, you will, for the most part, get a response that gives you some background on the issue. This is information you likely won't get in a news report.

And you may also get a few sentences from your rep about why they believe the way they do and these will give you a look into how they think. I'm still trying to figure out a tactful response to a comment about women's health care that makes no sense to me whatsoever.

So, look at that Advocacy Checklist and keep it handy this year.

Just as important is voting, and the LWV will definitely be out promoting voting in 2024. We have a website—Vote411.org—where we send candidates questions which they answer without our editing so that you can compare answers between the D's and the R's and anyone else running who thinks responding to voters is important. The site also gives you information on how to register to vote, where to vote, early voting, etc.

Please check out Vote411.org as we get closer to the primary (and the general election) and share this resource widely. Indiana voters don't have the best track record when it comes to voting participation, but we can change that if we all get involved with promoting why voting is important.

Also look for AAUW's Two Minute Activist which will keep you "in the know" about issues directly affecting women.

If you're a reader, invest in Heather Cox Richardson's new book "Democracy Awakening". If it's been some time since you've taken a history class, you'll appreciate her bringing you up to date on politics and our government since the Reagan administration.

The LWV is happy to assist with voter registration, speakers on various topics and other voter education assistance. Check our website at www.lwvfw.org or send me an email.

And, of course, GET OUT THERE AND VOTE!

Member Spotlight – Jana Hayden

I was born and raised in Prague, Czech Republic. I studied photography at the School of Graphic Design and was fortunate to secure an assistantship at the University of Pennsylvania, thanks to a friend who introduced my collection of photographs of the old Jewish Cemetery in Prague to the head of the Fine Arts Department. I graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree from Penn in 1969, where I met my husband. After graduating we moved to Hawaii and I worked for an advertising agency, and Jim taught at the University of Hawaii Manoa.

We lived in Pennsylvania and New York and ran a graphic arts and printing business for ten years, and after that we merged with a larger printing operation. We eventually settled in the east end of Long Island, where we were active in the Artist Alliance of East Hampton, both planning events and taking part in art exhibits.

We have two children and 6 grandchildren. Our son Dylan works as a social science analyst for HUD in Washington, DC. Our daughter Erin is a teacher and a writer and last spring she accepted position as a Director of Transition to Teaching Program at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

From the east coast we followed our daughter to Maui in 2014 when she accepted a teaching job there. My husband passed away in February 2023, so I chose to move to Fort Wayne to be closer to my daughter and grandchildren.

I plan to spend most of my time here in Fort Wayne, though I will be traveling both to Maui, where I still have many friends, and to Prague, where I have a large family. I am enjoying living in the Midwest. The Fort Wayne Philharmonic concerts are wonderful, as is the museum here, especially the large permanent collection of studio glass. I was amazed at the genealogy collection in the Public Library here. The freezing weather is a bit of a shock after years of living in the tropics, but there seems to be a great array of interesting events available all year round. I look forward to meeting members of the local chapter of AAUW and making new friends.

Member Spotlight – Marcia Johnson

After growing up in Holland Michigan, I attended Wheaton College in Illinois and taught math in Michigan, Illinois and Georgia. While my husband Andy was overseas, I went to graduate school at Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. When we moved to Texas in 1980, I began a career in IT and project management from which I retired in 2011. We moved to Fort Wayne in 2000.

My husband Andy and I have been married 55 years. We have two children – a son in Dallas who has two sons and a daughter near San Francisco who has three daughters. Our grandchildren range in age from 8-22.

We enjoy coffee at Old Crown often. I volunteer doing taxes for United Way/IRS through RSVP and directing traffic at community harvest food bank. I do this from 7am to 10 or 10:30 Saturday mornings, so may have a hard time being on time for our branch meetings/events and I surely won't be very dressed up!

We have traveled to more than 50 countries, most since 2010. In fact, as I write this "bio" we are adventuring in Patagonia!

In Memoriam

Our AAUW Fort Wayne Branch lost another of our long-time 50-year honorary members in December.



It is with a sad heart that I relay the news of the death of Sandy Schacht on December 15, 2023. Sandy was an honorary 50 plus year AAUW member, a life-long resident of Huntington, and a retired teacher for 42 years at Huntington County Schools. She was 90 years old.

Sandy was one of the founding members of Current Literature 1 and faithfully drove to Fort Wayne each month to attend each meeting. She loved books, was a speedy reader, and was teased about how fast she could finish our book selection! We were all jealous of that skill! She was also an active volunteer at her church.

Those of you who knew her, also knew about her love of birdwatching. She was a member of the National Audubon Society and traveled the world with her Fort Wayne birdwatching group. We miss her in our book group and will be collecting a donation to our AAUW Fort Wayne Trust in her honor at our February meeting.

~Barb Kanning

Her complete obituary can be found at

https://obituaries.churchfuneralsdirect.com/obituaries/person/in/huntington/267/sandra_schacht

Book Review: Persist by Senator Elizabeth Warren

2021. Macmillan Audio, 120 Broadway, NY10271 ISBN: 978-1-2508-2659-6

Recommended Dr. Bobbie Weikle

If you are thoroughly disheartened by the current political affairs of today, please resist the negativity and listen to the inspiring audio (or read the book) version of “Persist”, by Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. Listening to her actually read her own book to you is inspiration in itself, whether or not you agree with her political opinions. She is passionate about helping improve the lives of women in a way that you will only understand through listening to her read the book. She speaks about six perspectives that have influenced her thinking about life and her persistent advocacy for improving people’s lives.

First, she was teaching and found she had no job because of her pregnancy. She was a professor at Harvard and thinking ahead, she realized that things were running amok in the banking and loan industries. She began talking with anyone who would listen about the problems that she foresaw for people paying mortgages and the direction the country was headed. Fast forward to the Bush II administration. The housing mortgage bubble burst because banks made huge loans to unqualified borrowers which sent the stock market tumbling. Other Western nations did the same thing.

In her book, “Persist”, you realize that this woman has learned a lot from all the “selfie” pictures and more during her campaign/run for President in 2020. Her tenacity is something that anyone who has grown up trying to fight for the rights of women will definitely be inspired by reading or listening to this book.

Fort Wayne Branch Annual Recognitions

Barb Kanning, Recognition Chair

Each year at our March Branch meeting we honor several members who have shown exemplary dedication and work for our branch. This year's Recognition Committee to finalize all award categories is Cathy Huff-Helt, Monette King, Cheryl Mathews, Terri Stumpf and Barb Kanning.

We have made some preliminary nominations but are awaiting ideas from our branch members. If you have someone in mind for these categories **call Barb Kanning at 260-432-5228 ASAP with any suggestions.**

Woman of the Year

Eleanor Roosevelt Award

Emerging Branch Leader

Other Individual or Group Honor

Explanations of each honor are found in our yearbook on pages 16, 19-20. The committee will review any received by February 12.

Period Poverty

Stephany Bourne

In January you may have read an article on Period Poverty in the Op-Ed pages of the Journal-Gazette written by Leslie Patterson. Leslie is an officer of NOW and an active volunteer for Madvoters of Indiana.

In her recent piece, Ms. Patterson shares the sad facts about the challenges that women and girls face each month, especially if you are a girl that lives in poverty or finds challenges presented by some cultural norms or beliefs around women's menstruation.

Over a woman's lifetime, if she has a period for 40 years, she will have spent well over \$5,600 on Feminine Hygiene Products (FHP) – including the Indiana "luxury tax" imposed by our IN lawmakers. Programs like WIC or SNAP do not cover FHP and are often cashed in to purchase these needed items. When products are not available for a variety of reasons, women often wear protection longer than is healthy, often resulting in a variety of health issues that sometimes lead to mental health issues.

As a result of these initiatives, I have arranged to meet with Leslie, a department chair at Parkview and have contacted FWCS and the Red Cross so that we have a further understanding of local needs and challenges. I will also plan to take advantage of the AAUW grant process to help address this critical need by the girls and women in this area. A local official within the FWCS nursing department told me that they get over 10,000 requests annually for FHP. She believes that that number is a little low since nurses are incredibly busy during the school day and may not log every request.

Stay tuned for further updates as I move through this process. It is my sincere hope that our AAUW members will support these efforts as we continue to support women and girls that have the greatest needs.

Thoughts from your Co-Presidents

By Andrea Tarbet and Theresa Brady

AAUW Changes Lives

Years ago, a professional fundraiser gave up one of his secrets to motivating people to give. He said, "There are two reasons people give money: To save lives and to change lives." This rings true for the reasons people do many things – give their time and their skills as well.

One thing we have in common is that we both have the privilege to work at places that change lives. Andrea works for a financial planning firm, dedicated to helping clients plan their financial futures to reach their goals. Theresa works for the Girl Scouts, dedicated to building girls of courage, confidence and character who will become our future leaders. We are proud of what we do and the difference our organizations make. Many of our members chose professions that help and support people.

AAUW changes women's lives. Last fall we heard from Zoey, the student we helped fund to attend NCCWSL, that her life has changed for the better because of what she learned from AAUW. Her self-confidence increased, to the extent that she applied for a better-paying job out of her comfort zone, and got it. How powerful!

Now we have the opportunity to assist more students to attend NCCWSL for the coming year. As a branch, our Silent Auction funds raised are paying for two students' registrations, but they have to get to the conference to attend it. Transportation costs about \$500 per student to either fly or drive, which is money few students have these days.

As we all know, things have gotten more expensive, and most wage increases are far from offsetting the inflation. While our branch is applying for funds from the state AAUW and other sources, it is likely that there will still be a gap for transportation costs. Would you consider contributing a donation to help with transportation to and from NCCWSL? If you choose to do so, please send checks to our branch treasurer Laura McDermott, and put "NCCWSL" in the subject line.

Whether you are able to donate or not, be proud of the role we as AAUW play in changing women's lives, in lots of ways. After all, what better reason to do what we do?

Make today count for AAUW,
~ Andrea and Theresa

Interest Groups

Please share updated meeting dates/times locations for 2023-2024 to presaaufortwayne@gmail.com.

Current Literature I

Group meets at 6:30-8:45 pm on the first Tuesday of the month in the Globe Room at the ACPL Main Branch.

February 6 – Looking for Jane by Heather Marshall

March 5 – The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave

April 2 – Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

May 7 – The Scent Keeper by Erica Bauermeister

June 6 – The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki

September – Choose Books for 2024-2025

Group Leader: Open

Discussion Leader: Andrea Tarbet

Discussion Leader: Joanne Beerbower

Discussion Leader: Carol Burgess

Discussion Leader: Cathy Huff

Discussion Leader: Martha Dawson

Current Literature II

Group meets at 1-2:30 pm on the fourth Monday of the month at the Community Villas of Heritage Lakes Club House at 8220 St. Joe Road, FW.

February 26 – The Yellow House by Sara M. Broom

March 25 – HORSE by Geraldine Brooks

April 22 – Choose Books for 2024-2025

May TBD – Hang the Moon by Jeanette Walls

Group Leader: Cheryl Mathews

Reviewer: Cheryl

Hostess:

Reviewer: Martha

Hostess: Lois

Hostess: Ruth

Reviewer: Midge

Hostess: TBD

Great Decisions – disbanded 12/2023

Creative Arts & Service

The group meets mostly third Tuesday of the month at 11:30 am.

February 20 – Golden China

March 19 – Biaggi's Italian

Group Leader: Monette King

Hostess: Donna McKenzie

Hostess: Jane Anderson

AAUW Fort Wayne IN Branch Board of Directors

Co-Presidents: Andrea Tarbet/Theresa Brady

Director of Programs: Stephany Bourne

Director of Membership: Monette King

Recording Secretary: Terri Stumpf

Corresponding Secretary: Cathy Huff

Director of Finance: Laura McDermot

Chair of AAUW Trust: Corrina Weikle

AAUW Fort Wayne IN Branch Committees

Director of Communications/Media Publicity: Open

Director of Diversity and International Relations: Open

Director of Public Policy: Open

College/University Liaison (PFW): Dr. Terri Swim

College/University Liaison (IVY Tech): Joanne Alvarez

Recognition Chair: Barb Kanning

Nominating Committee Convener: Open

AAUW Funds: Barb Kanning

Bulletin Editor: Open

Reservations: Rhea Ervin

Member Records: Brian Johnson

Historian: Jane Anderson



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<https://www.facebook.com/aaufwbranch/>