

Bulletin

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

www.aauwfortwayne.org www.indstate.edu/aauw-in www.aauw.org
presaauwfortwayne@gmail.com

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2024 Holiday Brunch and Silent Auction

Saturday, December 7, 2024 arrive 9:45 am - \$25/person

Please join us for our traditional holiday brunch and [silent auction](#). This year we return to the Pine Valley Country Club where we will enjoy a brunch of scrambled eggs, bacon, potatoes, fruit and a variety of pastries.

The silent auction has really become a hit and is one of our biggest fundraisers. Plan to arrive by 9:45 to check-in, mingle, set up your auction item or begin to browse and bid. Program/Meeting will begin at 10:30 am. As always, guests are welcome to attend. Meal will include a gluten free entrée. Send in your reservations now! See articles on pages 2 and 4 about collection items to bring.

Your reservation and \$25/person must be received no later than Saturday, November 30, 2024.

2024 AAUW Fort Wayne Branch December Holiday Brunch Reservation Form

Saturday, December 7, 2024 arrive between 9:45-10:15 am

Your reservation and \$25/person **MUST be received by Saturday, November 30, 2024.**

Member Name: _____ Dietary needs: _____

Guest #1 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email of Guest #1: _____ Dietary needs: _____

Guest #2 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email of Guest #2: _____ Dietary needs: _____

Guest #3 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email of Guest #3: _____ Dietary needs: _____

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, 6934 Wolfsboro Ln, Fort Wayne, IN 46835 ****New address****

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

Pay online with Sign-Up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084AADAD2FA5FDC52-45244507-december>

Thoughts from your President

By Andrea Tarbet

About fifteen years ago I developed a slight obsession with senior ladies' attire. A seed of jealousy began to grow when I saw these women wearing white pants often, usually in the summer but in the winter too in warmer climates than ours. I started calling them members of the White Pants Club, as I yearned to join them in their post-menopausal, devil-may-care dressing, the bottom half of their bodies in a variety light colors. I was "stuck" in the Black Pants Club, planning my attire by the calendar and even then there were still surprise days when my cycle would start.

I'm sure most of you have experienced the inconveniences of having a period. We've also experienced the expense of having periods. Feminine hygiene products are not cheap by any means, and if you are buying for more than just yourself, it really adds up. Our house had four women cycling each month; I'm surprised Mom didn't have to take a loan! When I needed feminine supplies, they were magically in the bathroom cabinet at home, replenishing without any effort on my part. I never gave it a second thought until I started buying my own supplies in college.

Unfortunately, many girls have a much different experience. Their parent(s) can't afford to buy feminine supplies (TANF benefits don't cover them) or they simply don't provide them, so these girls are responsible for getting their own supplies. These girls often can't drive to a store, and even if they could, don't have the money to pay for it. This is called **period poverty**.

It's heartbreaking to think that girls go through the stress of going without supplies and trying to plan around that. It's unthinkable that some girls often **stay home from school** when they have their period, because they have no alternative. How do girls have a chance at gender equity in the classroom if they aren't present?

To fight this problem in Fort Wayne, Stephany Bourne has started a Period Poverty Project. Funded in part by a grant from our own branch Trust, Stephany is buying feminine supplies and creating small purses with the supplies and an inspirational quote. These will be given to various schools in the Fort Wayne Community School District to distribute from the nurse's office when girls ask for feminine products. The schools are thrilled because they run out of supplies constantly, and not enough money is budgeted to meet the demand. Rhea Ervin's school, Abbott Elementary, has a girls' program that will be assembling the purses this fall – how cool is that, girls helping girls?

Here is a great opportunity to make a difference, by participating in this project. How?

- 1) **Donate and bring feminine hygiene products to our next meeting on Saturday, December 7th.** We will do our Silent Auction as usual but will also collect any donations to help even more girls.
- 2) **Assist with delivering products to various schools.** See Stephany to ask about helping with this.
- 3) **Donate funds to purchase more products.** Stephany has been buying in bulk to help funds go further and would love to receive donations.

Thank you for supporting our girls by supporting this project! See you in December at the branch meeting!

Happy fall,

Andrea

P.S. We are hosting the Indiana State Convention here in Fort Wayne this spring! Do you work for a company that would be willing to donate things for attendee swag bags? Sticky note pads, binder clips, candy and the like are great- contact me or Stephany Bourne if you have about 75 such items for donation.

Please note: The President's email address is presaaufortwayne@gmail.com. The Bulletin will be 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.



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.*

*Trust 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://aauwfortwayne.org>.

Membership Matters

By Monette King edwar94470@aol.com

Please let me know the names of any guests that you plan to bring to our Branch meetings. I will prepare a packet of information to give to them at the meeting.

At our Oct. 5th meeting, members brought three guests who received "Welcome to AAUW" packets. Thanks, members, for advising me of the names of guests prior to our meetings.

On 10/15/24, five members of our Creative Arts study group did two service projects at Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana. Afterward, we five enjoyed lunch together at McCallister's. Outreach in the community for AAUW is always appreciated.

The 2024-2025 AAUW Fort Wayne Branch Yearbook has gone to the printer!

Keep your eye on your mailbox. If you don't receive one by Thanksgiving, contact Cathy Huff.

If you have any changes to your contact information, please contact Cathy Huff cathleen_huff@comcast.net or 403-7074.

AAUW FW Branch Board Meetings for 2024-2025

Location will be at Ivy Tech Community College

Start time is 6:00 pm.

2025: January 13 March 10 May 12

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

2024-2025 Program Dates

By Stephany Bourne

Mark your calendars for our Branch meetings / events.

Saturday, October 5, 2014 – 10:00 – Ivy Tech meeting room.

Saturday, December 7, 2024 – 10:00 – Pine Valley Country Club

Saturday, March 15, 2025 – 10:00 – Northern Indiana-Michiana Girl Scout Office

Saturday, May 3, 2025 – Northrop H.S. cafeteria – *Our branch is hosting the Indiana state AAUW Conference!*

Autumn is the year's last and loveliest smile. Hopefully this news catches Mother Nature sending you a warm smile surrounded by her multicolored fall bounty.

The Period Poverty Project is underway with the delivery of the first seven tubs of feminine hygiene products delivered to area middle and high schools. The receiving nurses are "tickled pink" to receive such much-needed supplies. A special "Thanks" to Rhea Erwin's leadership group of students from Abbett Elementary. They stuffed the cosmetic bags with motivational quotes. The bags will be kept by each of the girls for their monthly return trips to the school nurse.

Your generous donations of both cash and products have really stretched the grant! YOU are very much appreciated. Susan Baier, our October speaker, made a generous donation after the meeting. She also wanted you to know that she was unable to accept our gratuity due to ACPL policies, so that money was donated to the Dolly Parton book project.

Before you know it, cold weather will be upon us, and we'll be turning our attention to preparations for the December meeting's silent auction. We will once again be gathering at The Pine Valley Country Club on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Please plan to arrive between **9:45 – 10:15 am** to allow plenty of time to set up your items for the silent auction, grab some coffee and mingle with friends and members. If you have questions about the auction, please contact Barb Kanning. Our meeting will begin promptly at 10:30. Use the registration form or the online link on page 1 to register.

The meeting's activity will be a networking activity targeted to "get to know each other." So many times, we rush into the meeting, grab a bite, listen to a speaker and then rush out the door to our next obligation. Hopefully this engaging exercise will make it possible to get to know each other in a variety of ways!

We look forward to seeing everyone on the 7th. Until then, stay safe and healthy!

~ Stephany

Silent Auction Fundraiser

The proceeds from our Silent Auction at our December event at Pine Valley will be used to cover registration for two students to attend NCCWSL.

The auction items do **not** have to be "baskets". A wide variety of items will be available. Among the contributions to bid on are lovely hand-crafted or specialty homemade food items. Some wonderful gift certificates for hotel overnights or for attending local events have also been donated for previous auctions. Get creative and surprise us with what you come up with for us to bid on!

It is a good place to pick up a holiday or birthday gift for someone in your family or a friend.

Kudos to AAUW Trust for NCCWSL Support

I would like to sincerely thank the AAUW Fort Wayne Trust for providing a grant to assist students to attend our National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). These funds, along with our silent auction and Indiana AAUW funding, helped to cover the cost for two students to attend NCCWSL which paid for their registration which included the registration fee, plane tickets and Ubers to get between the University of Maryland and the airport. As we've seen each year, the conference's effect on these women is profoundly impactful and leaves them with new skills and renewed confidence. We are excited to be a part of that and make a difference for these young women.

Andrea Tarbet, President

"At the NCCSWL Conference, I learned the importance of voice. Not just the voice I use when I speak to my parents or my co-workers but the voice I have when it comes to advocacy. In the panel of Daring to Harness Your Strengths While Navigating Challenges, I was able to hear the challenges that we as women face in our day-to-day lives but also how to face them with strength. But back to the voice part, my voice speaks volumes, even in the spaces I would've never thought I would be heard. Especially since it may empower another woman to keep going."

Rachelle McCoy

"The NCCWSL Conference was an incredible experience that grew my passion for building a personal brand that truly represents my values and aspirations. I was moved by the powerful conversations around the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) session and its crucial impact on advancing gender equality. The sessions on authentic leadership were especially transformative, inspiring me to lead with integrity and authenticity to make a meaningful difference in the world."

Brooke Stinson



Interest Groups

Please share updated meeting dates/times locations for 2024-2025 to presaaufortwayne@gmail.com.

Current Literature I

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

November 5 – A Girl Called Samson by Amy Harmon

December 3 – The Keeper of Hidden Books by Madeline Martin

January = Lunch meeting! Location TBD

February 4 – The Frozen River by Ariel Lauhon

March 4 – The First Ladies by Marie Benedict /Victoria Christopher

Group Leader: Theresa Brady

Discussion Leader: Barb Kanning

Discussion Leader: Cathy Huff

Discussion Leader: Andrea Tarbet

Discussion Leader: Carol Burgess

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.

Monday, November 25 –

Group Leader: Cheryl Mathews

Reviewer:

Hostess:

Creative Arts & Service

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

November 19 – NAWA restaurant , 126 W. Columbia St. FW, 46802

December 10 – Baker Street Steakhouse , 4820 N. Clinton FW, 46825

Group Leader: Monette King

Hostess: Linda Flatley

Hostess: Jeanne Sheridan

AAUW Fort Wayne IN Branch Board of Directors

President: Andrea Tarbet

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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