

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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AAUW Fort Wayne 2025 Annual Meeting and Brunch

Saturday, March 15, 2025 arrive 9:30 am - \$25/person

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

Girl Scout Cookies will be available for purchase between 9:15-10am.

The AAUW Fort Wayne Branch will hold its annual meeting with election of officers and present branch recognitions on Saturday, March 15. Our featured speaker, **Sharon Tubbs**, is the CEO of Healthvisions of Fort Wayne. And will present information on the inequities of the women in this area and Fort Wayne in particular. See more information on page 3. 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!

See more information on pages 3-5.

Your reservation and \$25/person must be received no later than Saturday, March 8, 2025. 56

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch 2025 Annual Meeting and Brunch Reservation Form

Saturday, March 15, 2025 arrive 9:30 am - \$25/person

Your reservation and \$25/person **MUST be received by Saturday, March 8, 2025.**

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

Pay online with Sign-Up Genius at <https://bit.ly/AAUWFWReg>

Check # _____



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.*

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

*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://aaufortwayne.org>.*

Membership Matters

By Monette King edwar94470@aol.com

Reba Ervin has renewed her membership AND has a new street address:

4150 Hexhill Court, Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Cell: 260-437-2105 rfervin@gmail.com

Please use blank space on pg.33 in your AAUW Yearbook to record this new info for her.

When you invite a guest to any of our Branch meetings, please contact me by text or email so that I can prepare an information packet for your guest the day of the meeting.

Corrections to the 2024-2025 AAUW Fort Wayne Branch Yearbook

- Page 9: Andrea Tarbet's phone number should be 458-4366
- Page 12: Student Association Member is not \$23, but should be total \$25.00 (National \$19 + State \$2 + Branch \$4)
- Page 28 has 3 corrections
 - Michelle Casiano's last name has only one "s".
address 11227 Glenbarr Drive
correct email michelle@mm-photo.com
 - Martha Dawson's email should be: HWDawson@gmail.com
 - Jana Hayden earned her MFA at the University of Pennsylvania, not Penn State
- Page 29: Carolyn Hurley's phone number should be 210-4272
- Page 30: Laura McDermott's zip code should be 46701
- Kieran O'Dowd's email should be: ualkieran1115@gmail.com

AAUW FW Branch Board Meetings for 2024-2025

Location will be at Ivy Tech Community College

Start time is 6:00 pm.

2025: March 10 May 12

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

2025 Program Dates

By *Stephany Bourne* slbourne1@gmail.com

Mark your calendars for our Branch meetings / events.

Saturday, March 15, 2025 – 9:30 – am at the Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana Office

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

Sharon Tubbs, CEO of Healthvisions of Ft Wayne, named keynote for March 15th Annual Meeting.

I met our speaker at a women's networking conference held last fall at PFW.

Ms. Tubbs, a woman of faith, has just been named the CEO of Healthvisions of Ft. Wayne. She has been the community liaison for the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation for the past four years and just recently transitioned into her current role after the retirement of her colleague, Renetta Williams. THE NAACP has recognized her for her efforts to improve healthy eating in Fort Wayne.

I enjoyed the inspiring stories she shared of her trials of being an impoverished Black child in Ft. Wayne. Also Ms. Tubbs will present information on the inequities of the women in this area and Ft. Wayne in particular.

Her books will be available for purchase at before 10 am and during lunch (prices are estimated):

- They Got Daddy - The story of a family reckoning with racism and faith. \$16.00
- Living in the Pink - A collection of short stories - \$7.00
- Milk and Honey - 10 Principles of Embracing the Promised Land - no price available

Can't wait to see everyone at the Girl Scout Office in March!

~ Stephany

Fort Wayne Branch Annual Recognitions

Barb Kanning, Recognition Chair barbkanning@gmail.com 260-432-5228

Each year at our March Branch meeting we honor several members who have shown exemplary dedication and work for our branch. Our Branch Recognition Committee is meeting and discussing the women to honor this year. The four categories are:

1. Woman of the Year - See yearbook page 20.
- 2 Eleanor Roosevelt Honoree - yearbook page 19.
3. Emerging Leader
4. Special group or individual who has excelled in our Branch.

You can help! Call or email Barb with your recommendations **by February 15th**.

Update from the January Board Meeting and Annual Elections Announcement

Andrea Tarbet, President

Changes to Director of Finance and Corresponding Secretary positions

Due to additional professional and personal commitments, Dr. Laura McDermott has resigned as our Director of Finance. We thank you, Laura, for your service on the Branch Board and wish her the best with her additional responsibilities.

Cathy Huff has graciously agreed to complete Laura's term prior to her term end on June 30, 2025 and was appointed by the board to do so. We appreciate your willingness to step up, Cathy!

The board also appointed Theresa Brady to take the remainder of Cathy's term as Corresponding Secretary, which ends on June 30, 2026. Thank you, Theresa, for assisting with this responsibility!

Slate for Elections on March 15

Our upcoming Annual Meeting includes our annual elections. Each year three branch board members are up for election, as well as three Trust board members. Below are the slates for each board:

Branch Board Officers

Director of Membership: Monette King

Recording Secretary: Rhea Ervin

Director of Finance: Cathy Huff

Branch Trust Candidates

1. Joyce Baker

2. Michelle Casiano

3. TBA at the meeting



**December 2024
Brunch Photos**

Let's Fight
**PERIOD
 POVERTY**

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch is committed to closing the period poverty gap helping students in Fort Wayne.

We are collecting menstrual pads, tampons, hygiene wipes, and small pouches for the items to be kept in.

If you are able, please bring these items to the March 15th meeting.



AAUW Period Poverty Project

Stephany Bourne

The Period Poverty Project that kicked off last April has met with tremendous success. With help from our members and their generous monetary and product donations we exceeded the original grant by nearly \$3,000. The grant was written for \$1,500.00 but saw a total donation of almost \$4,000.00.

On January 6, 2025, 20 large tubs of feminine hygiene products and cosmetic bags with inspirational quotes hidden inside were presented to the school nurses from Fort Wayne Community Schools. They were very appreciative of our collective efforts and were overwhelmed with the generosity of the Fort Wayne AAUW branch.

With your help, we'd like to continue donating to FWCS, so please put these products on your shopping list and plan to donate cash or products at the next several meetings. I plan to include this request in the newsletters going out to the state members with the hope that they can find it in their hearts to follow your lead by bringing a nice donation with them in May.

I can't thank you enough for making such a difference for girls in middle and high schools in Ft. Wayne. The project director, Candis Diesler told me that she had over 10,000 requests for pads or tampons last year alone.

I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting at the Girl Scout office.

Silent Auction Fundraiser

By Stephany Bourne

A huge THANK YOU to all our members who donated wonderful auction items. AND, equal THANK YOU'S to all the shoppers for your generosity. We also had members who were "outbid" and donated to our worthy fundraiser. The grand total deposited was \$1,016.00! That will certainly help send young college leaders to NCCWSL in the spring.



AAUW FORT WAYNE BRANCH TRUST
INVITES YOU TO

2025 GRANT AWARD NIGHT

Join AAUW and community members to hear presentations on the completed projects from the 2024 grant awardees, as well as the new initiatives proposed by the 2025 grant awardees.

April 28, 2025 / 6:00pm

Ivy Tech - Coliseum Campus - Auditorium
3800 N Anthony Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

AAUW FW Branch is Hosting the AAUW Indiana State Convention!

Put the date on your calendar and plan to attend. This will take the place of our May Branch Event. We want everyone to attend. We will collect membership renewal forms and dues checks as usual. Remember to bring your checkbook.

Special thanks to Stephany Bourne for all her work on the logistics!

We have preliminary details from our State Co-Presidents Sharon Langlotz and Sherry Watkins for the State Convention coming up on Saturday, May 3, 2025.

Location: Northrop High School, 7001 Coldwater Rd., Fort Wayne

9:00-10:00 am	Registration and continental breakfast
10:00- 10:30 am	Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, open the convention
10:30-11:15 am	Keynote Speaker #1 Meghan Kissell, Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy of AAUW National
11:30-12:00 am	AAUW Indiana update – Sharon and Sherry and State Board
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00-2:00 pm	Keynote Speaker #2 ICPE (Indiana Coalition for Public Education) Joel Hand, Counsel and Lobbyist
2:00 pm	Business Meeting, Installation of Officers
3:00 pm	Adjournment

Meghan Kissell is the Senior Director of Policy and Membership Advocacy at AAUW. She leads AAUW's non-partisan and mission-driven public policy at the federal level and supports the grassroots advocacy work of AAUW's membership network. Meghan has more than 20 years of nonprofit policy and issues development with a focus on implementing targeted social impact strategies and engaging stakeholders to advocate for positive policy outcomes.

Joel Hand is a criminal defense attorney in Indianapolis and general counsel and lobbyist for the Indiana Coalition for Public Education (ICPE). He is dedicated to promoting public education and opposing the privatization of our public schools. He is one of the founders of ICPE when it was launched in January of 2011 and works tirelessly all year supporting pro-public education legislation and fighting against legislation that would not benefit public education.

Book Review: by Dr. Bobbie Weikle

Author: O’Keefe, Edward F., *The Loves of Theodore Roosevelt: The Women Who Created a President*. (2024). Simon & Schuster, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY, 10020; ISBN # 978-1-9821-4568-2.

This book celebrates the life of a most remarkable President, Theodore Roosevelt. The author gives new recognition to the lives of five extraordinary women who surrounded the president as he developed from a boy into an adult and how they helped shaped his political career into becoming president.

Pouring through a treasure trove of family letters written throughout Roosevelt’s lifetime, the author gives readers a fresh look at how influential the women in Theodore’s life were in guiding his career. His remarkable mother, Martha Bulloch Roosevelt, his two sisters, Anna Roosevelt Cowels and Corinne Roosevelt Robinson and his two wives truly helped make his life possible and provided guidance for his political rise to becoming president and throughout his career and lifetime.

Many people view President Roosevelt as the ‘impossible, hardy, self-made man who was perhaps the most “masculine president” in the memory of many Americans. This book makes it clear that he was **largely the product of some extraordinary women** who helped him as he faltered, made mistakes, and assisted him in reinventing the next political moves in his life.

Although not much has been written about the importance of Theodore’s first wife, Alice Hathaway Lee Roosevelt, she was actually a “vivacious, curious, playful, and insightful woman” who greatly influenced Theodore’s earlier years. During his two-year pursuit to win Alice’s hand in marriage, Theodore accepted women’s suffrage and the pursuit of equality for women. Alice played a huge role in his adopting a progressive outlook in the 1880’s and even helped to advocate for married women keeping their maiden names. Even though Alice’s marriage to Theodore was brief due to her death after the birth of their only daughter, she played a huge role in his political career and being elected for the New York Assembly.

Theodore’s second wife, Edith Kermit Carrow Roosevelt, also played an extraordinary role in helping Theodore shape his political life and career. Assisting with some of the decision making and work of being the president of the United States, the author views her position as carving out the role of being the “first modern first lady.” As President Franklin Roosevelt once commented about Edith: “She managed TR very cleverly without his being conscious of it – no slight achievement...”

The author also includes the influence of many other family members and equally famous women who played roles in Theodore’s life along the way. Women, such as social reformer, Jane Addams, author Edith Wharton and others will be of interest to readers. His loving relationships with his niece Eleanor Roosevelt and his daughter, Alice, also give some insightful information about the presidency. He once wrote in his diary: “I love to talk over everything with [Alice] from politics to poetry.”

In making one of his trips to New York with daughter, Alice, Theodore wrote his Harvard senior thesis. It called for equal rights for women. The title of the work, “*Practicability of Giving Men and Women Equal Rights*” was remarkably advanced for the 1880’s. However, although his daughter, Alice, and niece, Eleanor Roosevelt were strong supporters of equal rights for women, Theodore’s sisters had other strong opinions which they used to sway the opinions of Theodore in other directions.

From surviving battles with buffalo in the Badlands of the Dakota Territory, to trying to raise cattle, the author carves out Theodore’s political ambitions which would become real. His survival of an assassin’s bullet should be called a “medical miracle” for that period of medical history. Scheduled to give a speech before he was shot, he insisted on delivering a shortened version of his speech. Behind the lectern, he said, “Friends, I shall ask you to be as quiet as possible. I don’t know whether you fully understand that I have just been hot; but it takes more than that to kill a Bull Moose.”

The historical records shared in this book make it a valuable resource to read. AAUW readers will thoroughly enjoy learning about the roles that women played in Roosevelt’s life while helping him develop his political career. The book is currently available through the ACPL.

Book Reviews by Stephany BourneThe First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

This is a historical novel about the friendships of Eleanor Roosevelt and social activist Mary McLeod Bethune and takes place during FDR's administration. As First Lady Roosevelt tries to maneuver through and help implement much of her husband's civil rights legislation, these two strong women become inseparable. Throughout the story they come up upon one barrier after another – racism, the social stigma of being women and much more. Not to give away a secret, but if it were not for Eleanor Roosevelt, you may never have heard of the Tuskegee Airmen. First Lady Roosevelt has always been one of my favorite people; I hope she will become one of yours as you turn the pages of this book.

Hidden Figures by Margot Shetterfly

I loved this book and discovered that NASA became NASA through the efforts of the genius of a few African American women. Not only did they accomplish the impossible using a slide rule and a pad of paper, they did it as they fought for a seat at the "whites only" cafeteria table, and while persuading the engineers (all white men) that they also needed to be at the table during the planning and implementation of so many NASA projects. The story follows the incredible story of strong, educated women and their families who overcame one barrier after another. I was pleased to find out that Mary Johnson's engineering expertise made it possible for her son to win the national Soapbox Derby. The first Black ever to accomplish such a prize! I highly recommend this book as well.

Radium Girls by Kate Moore

This is the true but gruesome tale of the women that painted reflective radio dials during the war. They suffered through inhumane pain and suffering as a result of radioactive poisoning coming from the paint. There is a surprise connection to Fort Wayne in this well researched story. One of the women that is called in for consultation is one of Fort Wayne's own Dr. Alice Hamilton. Don't miss this mostly unknown story in women's history.

Thoughts from your President

By Andrea Tarbet

Hello friends,

In the midst of the turmoil that surrounds our federal and state government, we also have fundamental challenges to consider. One of them is near and dear to AAUW's heart, pay equity.

Equal Pay Day was established in 1996 by the National Committee on Pay Equity to highlight the differential between men's and women's pay for the same or equivalent work. It represents how far into the new year that women must work to earn the equivalent of non-Hispanic white men's pay for the prior year.

Equal Pay Day in 2025 will occur on March 25, 2025, and is based upon the latest data (2023) that shows full-time, year-round women in the United States earned 83% of what white men earned. When you include part-time and seasonal workers that number drops to 75%. However, our state of Indiana statistics were lower than the national average at 81.9% of men's earnings.

Nationwide, Asian American women fared the best and were paid 94 cents on the dollar paid to men. If you were a mom of any race, you earned 71 cents on the dollar. If you were Black, it was 66 cents on the dollar. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women were paid 65 cents. Both Latinas and native women earned 58 cents. Last but not least, disabled women earned 50 cents for every dollar paid to non-disabled men.

We still have work to do, and we can start on a personal level. But how?

Have a conversation. Start with women in the workforce that you know fairly well. Talk to them when they are in the job hunting process. Ask them if they know what the appropriate salary range is for that role in their city. Ask them if they know what they are worth based on their education, skills and experience. If they don't know these things, offer to help them find out. By law many companies now have to state a salary range, which can help, as well as some research.

Encourage negotiation skills with women you know. Many women never negotiate their salaries and benefits when offered a job. This makes the wage gap worse and has lasting implications. Even if you never negotiated your wages due to working on a set salary schedule with a union, for example, you have probably negotiated to buy a car, etc. Offer to practice negotiation with someone.

Be an advocate. Say the words out loud to other women, "You can do this." "We are in your corner." "I believe in you." "You are more than qualified for this." Other women, especially younger ones, may not have ever heard these words spoken to them.

When you have these kinds of experiences, let us know. We would love to publish them in the newsletter as an encouragement for all of us. We are stronger together.

Andrea Tarbet
Fort Wayne Branch AAUW President

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.

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 (mostly) the ACPL Main Branch.

February 4 – The Frozen River by Ariel Lauhon @Little Turtle

March 4 – The First Ladies by M. Benedict /V. Christopher @Tecumseh

April 1 – Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng

May 6 – The Women by Kristin Hannah

June 3 – The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zeven

Group Leader: Theresa Brady

Discussion Leader: Andrea Tarbet

Discussion Leader: Carol Burgess

Discussion Leader: Vicki Arthur

Discussion Leader: Martha Dawson

Discussion Leader: Joanne Beerbower

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.

Group Leader: Cheryl Mathews

Creative Arts & Service

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

Feb. 18 – Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano, 4010 W. Jefferson FW, 46804

March 18 – Cork & Cleaver, 221 E. Washington Ctr. Rd. FW, 46825

April 15 – To Be Determined *(Easter = April 20th)

May 20 – Red Lobster FW **Make next year's schedule 😊

Group Leader: Monette King

Hostess: Donna McKenzie

Hostess: Ruth VonDeylen

Hostess: Jana Hayden

Hostess: Monette King

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: Theresa Brady

Director of Finance: Cathy Huff

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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