

# Bulletin

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

[www.aaufortwayne.org](http://www.aaufortwayne.org) [www.indstate.edu/aauw-in](http://www.indstate.edu/aauw-in) [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

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## AAUW FW Branch May Event AAUW Indiana State Convention!

**Saturday, May 3, 2025.**

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 –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.

Our afternoon Keynote speaker will be the President of the *Indiana Coalition for Public Education* (ICPE), **Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer**. Cathy is also a School Board member for Monroe Count

Questions? [slanglotzaauw@gmail.com](mailto:slanglotzaauw@gmail.com) (317/842-2436) or [sherryindy3@aol.com](mailto:sherryindy3@aol.com) (317/407-5188)

**Registration deadline – Wednesday April 22, 2025**

**Checks** -Mail check and registration form to Treasurer Cathleen Huff at 4329 North Drive, Ft Wayne IN 46815-4836. **Please make checks payable to AAUW – IN.**

**\*\*AAUW Fort Wayne Branch will collect membership renewal forms and dues checks as usual. Remember to bring your checkbook.**

## Thoughts from your President

By Andrea Tarbet

Hello friends,

In the last newsletter I talked about being an advocate and a mentor for other women in the workforce, to help them advocate for themselves and their earning power.

This month I want to talk about the federal and state government policies and actions since the beginning of this year. To be clear, what I am referring to are the public acts by our elected officials, particularly within the executive branch. This is not to be construed as advocacy for or against any political party, but rather the events unfolding before us since Donald Trump became president.

Since the presidential inauguration and the inception of DOGE led by Elon Musk, we have seen multiple government agencies' staffing slashed, the U.S. Department of Education has even attempted to be dismantled and now Social Security benefits are under attack.

The government actions to eliminate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion have cost the jobs of many people, including at least one of our very own branch members. Our federal government has attempted to control free speech by limiting press access to the White House, removing historical events and honored people from federal websites, and even limiting words that can be used on those websites.

Mike Braun as the newly inaugurated governor of Indiana has written and implemented executive orders that are very similar in vein to the federal executive orders. He even went as far as to attend the executive order signing in Washington, D.C., that eliminates the U.S. Department of Education.

Real people are affected and real people are hurting. Our democracy of checks and balances on the three branches of power is being tested to the max, and I am angry. And grieved.

And left wondering, what can we do? What can I do, when I work full-time and have other responsibilities, so therefore limited time? Our State Public Policy Chair Bobbie Weikle has let us know about emailing your legislators and government officials, and here are some additional thoughts:

- 1) **Stay informed and listen to several news sources.** It's tough to hear and feels like the bad news can be relentless, but it's important that we all stay aware of what's happening on federal, state and local levels. If you can afford it, subscribe to a newspaper or donate to a public news outlet that follows the standard principles of independent journalism.
- 2) **Do the AAUW Two-Minute Activist emails.** It really is two minutes. They email you first, then you follow the directions to email your legislator. You can change any verbiage you want, or leave it as is. Sign up at [www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/](http://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/).
- 3) **Call your legislators.** According to The New York Times, "a phone call can outweigh and email and far outweighs a Facebook post or a tweet." U.S. mailed letters can take too long to arrive and be relegated to pile in an office. Staffers answer the legislators' phone lines and they tally the responses- both live phone calls and emails. One fantastic resource on the federal level is [5calls.org](http://5calls.org). They find your legislators based on your address and feed their phone numbers to you. They keep a list of current topics that are relevant to Congress to help you stay organized. (If you have a similar resource on the state level, please let me know and I will share it- I haven't found one yet...)
- 4) **Attend town halls- with or without our legislators.** The local chapter of the group Indivisible, a pro-democracy activist group, recently held an "Empty Chair Town Hall," as none of our U.S. senators or our representative would attend. Hundreds of people attended and they ran out of space in their room at the library. The next one is planned for Sat., Apr. 19th, so watch for more details on that.

What ideas do you have? Let us know at [pres@aaufortwayne.org](mailto:pres@aaufortwayne.org) and I'm happy to share them with the rest of the branch.

Remember, we are stronger together. Andrea

## Membership Matters

By Monette King, Director of Membership  
[edwar94470@aol.com](mailto:edwar94470@aol.com) or (260) 414-3916

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**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.*

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It's Membership Renewal Time! Our 2024-2025 membership year ends June 30. **Please make sure you have renewed your 2025-2026 membership by May 24, 2025.**

In this Newsletter you will find your Dues Renewal Form. You may bring it with your check to our combined Branch and State meeting at Northrop HS on May 3.

If you prefer, you may mail your form & check to Cathy Huff, our new Branch Treasurer, by May 24.

At our March Branch meeting, we were pleased that members brought 3 guests who may be interested in joining our branch. Thank you!

## Message To All 50 Year Plus Members:

As we approach dues renewal time of the fiscal year, I would like to ask all of us to consider a donation. Our reward for being an AAUW member for more than 50 years, is to be dues-free for the rest of our lives!

Our Branch can use our financial support to help with rising expenses. Please consider a generous check to help with local support. Either bring it with the renewal form from this newsletter to the May 3rd meeting OR send it to Cathy Huff. Thanks so much, Barb Kanning

## AAUW FW Branch Board Meetings for 2024-2025

Location will be at Ivy Tech Community College

Start time is 6:00 pm.

**2025:** May 12

Watch your email prior to each board meeting for the agenda and additional details from [presaauwfortwayne@gmail.com](mailto:presaauwfortwayne@gmail.com).



## 2025-2026 Dues Renewal Form

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select your renewal dues category:

- ☐ REGULAR ..... \$ **101.00** = National AAUW \$**74.00** + State \$7.00 + Branch \$20.00
- ☐ PAID LIFE MEMBER..... \$ **27.00** = State \$7.00 + Branch \$20.00
- ☐ STUDENT ..... \$ **27.00** = National \$21.00 + State \$2.00 + Branch \$ 4.00
- ☐ HONORARY LIFE ..... \$ **0** \*\*Please consider a donation for Branch expenditures.

*(Note that \$69 of national dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.)*

- ☐ I am also enclosing a separate check for a National AAUW Fund Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please write the fund name on the memo line. Examples are: AAUW Funds or AAUW LAF

Do you have **corrections/changes** for the 2025-26 Yearbook? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make your renewal check **Payable to** AAUW Fort Wayne Branch

**MAIL check with this completed form to our Treasurer by May 24, 2025:**

**Cathy Huff 4829 North Drive Fort Wayne, IN 46815**

**We always WELCOME new members to AAUW!**

If you know of prospective members, please contact our Membership Chair for a packet of information.  
Your support is appreciated.

Thank you for renewing your membership!

**Monette King, Membership Chair**

[edwar94470@aol.com](mailto:edwar94470@aol.com)

C: (260) 414-3916

Pay online at <https://aauwfortwayne.org/online-payments/> by May 24, 2025.





## ONLINE REGISTRATION USING SIGN-UP GENIUS

We are excited to share that we are updating our online method of registering and paying for our events! We have been exploring different platforms, and for now, we will be using Sign-Up Genius. It is easy to use on both your phone and computer. This is an option for members who prefer to pay online. Checks and cash are accepted for those who prefer to register via snail mail!

### How to Register using Sign-Up Genius

1. Go to the link listed in the Newsletter. It is case sensitive.
2. Once you're on the sign-up page, you'll see a list of available slots or registrations.
3. Click on "Sign-Up" next to Member Registration to register yourself for the brunch
4. Click on "Sign-Up" next to Guest to register a guest, if you are bringing one. You can register up to 3 guests.
5. Scroll down and click "Save and Continue." On this page, add guest details or any information you want the branch to know about yourself.
6. Click "Sign-Up and Pay Now" to complete your registration at the bottom of the page.
7. You'll then pay and be ready to meet and greet at the next meeting!

Note: Registrations are more online as Sign-Up Genius charges a fee.



## Trust Award Night



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



## 2025 Annual Meeting Elections

The following members were elected for officer positions for 2025-2027. Terms begin in July.

Recording Secretary – Rhea Ervin

Director of Finance – Cathy Huff

Director of Membership – Monette King

The following members were elected to serve on the Trust Board for 2024-2026. Terms begin in July.

Joyce Baker

Michelle Casiano

Jeanne Sheridan

All six officers begin their new terms on July 1st, 2025. When you see them, please thank them for their willingness to serve!



***Sharon Tubbs, was our guest speaker at the AAUW Fort Wayne Branch 2025 Annual Meeting.***



## Fort Wayne Branch Honors Given

Barb Kanning, Recognition Chair

On March 15 at our Branch Annual Meeting and Recognition Event, these women were recognized for showing exemplary dedication to our mission and continue to work toward achieving it! **Our Recognition Committee Members** are Cathy Huff, Terri Stumpf, Martha Weatherford and Barb Kanning, chair.

Woman of the Year - honoring a member with a plaque for outstanding service to AAUW and the community was awarded to **Dr. JoAnne Alvarez**. She currently serves as VP of our AAUW Trust, Branch university liaison, President of the Hispanic Leadership Coalition of NE IN, Secretary of the Questa Education Foundation, and serves on several other boards in our community.

Eleanor Roosevelt Award - to a member who promotes the ideals of Eleanor Roosevelt in our community, a plaque was given to **Corrina Weikle**. She currently serves as Chair of our AAUW Trust and has worked hard to update the application process to apply and criteria for grant selections. She works as Director of Communications at Good Shepherd Church, plus coordinating many events held there. She also serves actively at Snider High School and Memorial Park Middle School where two of her children attend.

Community Leader Honoree - **Susan Baier** who exemplifies Fort Wayne leadership as Executive Director of our Allen County Public Library. She also serves on the boards of: Visit Fort Wayne, FW Rotary Club, Friends of the Lincoln Collection, and the Literacy Alliance. Check out her "Open Book with Susan Baier" on YouTube or Access Fort Wayne!

Branch Leader "Plus" - **Andrea Tarbet** capably serves as our Branch President for her second term. Plus, she took on the extra responsibility of handling the 2025-2027 nominations since our branch has a vacancy in that position. We are grateful that she "took the reins" and coordinated the task for election at the March meeting. As our president, she also serves on our AAUW Trust board. Her Investment Specialist job also requires much time and effort. Thank you for doing the job well!

CONGRATULATIONS to all of these AAUW members who live and practice our mission as **advocates** for Education and Equity for women and girls.





## Library Announces “One County, One Book” Initiative Featuring Steve Inskeep

Susan P. Baier, Executive Director

(FORT WAYNE, IN) – The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) is proud to announce its upcoming reading initiative, “One County, One Book”, encouraging the community to read and engage with the thought-provoking book “Differ We Must: How Lincoln Succeeded in a Divided America” by Steve Inskeep. This initiative aims to unite people of all ages and backgrounds through a shared reading experience.

“Stories are powerful, and a community-wide reading initiative gives us the opportunity to focus on a single story with common themes for discussion. We are excited to be a catalyst for those conversations and a place where everyone knows they can share their ideas in the spirit of learning and connection,” said ACPL Director of Special Collections Curt Witcher. “When sometimes it seems we are miles apart, stories can bring us together.”

“One County, One Book” will welcome the book’s author, Steve Inskeep, to Fort Wayne for a community discussion as part of the annual Friends of the Lincoln Collection McMurtry Lecture Series on October 9, 2025 at the Main Library.

In the book, Inskeep, a nationally known journalist and host of NPR’s Morning Edition, explores the complex history and enduring influence of President Abraham Lincoln and his success uniting a divided nation. With insightful narratives and engaging storytelling, Inskeep delves into pivotal moments of Lincoln’s life and invites readers to reflect on the values that shaped history and provides lessons for today.

As the caretakers of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection, one of the world’s most comprehensive collections of Abraham Lincoln artifacts, and the curators of the Rolland Center for Lincoln Research, a world-class exhibit and Lincoln research facility – the ACPL chose a book focused on President Lincoln and invited not only the Friends of the Lincoln Collection, but also the ACPL Foundation and Friends of the Library to sponsor Inskeep as the keynote for the 2025 McMurtry Lecture.

In the leadup to October’s McMurtry Lecture with Steve Inskeep, “One County, One Book” will include a variety of ways to engage with the story in the months to come including book discussions and offer programs across various ACPL branches.

The ACPL is encouraging individuals, educators, book clubs, social groups, faith groups, and more to consider the book for upcoming curricula/plans. The library is providing additional digital copies via the ACPL’s digital library at no cost to patrons.

Interested persons or groups can sign up to receive event ticket alerts, discussion guides, and program information at [www.acpl.info/onecountyyonebook](http://www.acpl.info/onecountyyonebook).

## Interest Groups

Please share updated meeting dates/times locations for 2024-2025 to [presaaufwfortwayne@gmail.com](mailto:presaaufwfortwayne@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.

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: 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.

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

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

### Group Leader: Monette King

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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