

Bulletin

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

www.aaufortwayne.org www.indstate.edu/aauw-in www.aauw.org

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2026 Annual Meeting, Recognition and Breakfast

Saturday, March 7, 2026 arrive 9:30 am - \$20/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 7. Our featured speaker, Patty Dunn (and associates) from the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne will review a 2025 report on the status of girls and women in Allen County. Our breakfast (scrambled eggs, sausage, pancake, regular/decaf coffee and a pastry) will be provided by Classic Cafe Catering. We hope to see everyone to elect new officers and honor our members. **Guests welcome!**

Check page 5 in the February Bulletin for more details about the meeting, elections and recognitions.

Your reservation and \$20/person must be received no later than Wednesday, February 25.

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch 2026 Annual Meeting and Breakfast Reservation Form

Saturday, March 7, 2026 arrive 9:30 am - \$20/person

Your reservation and \$20/person **MUST be received by Wednesday, February 25.**

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 \$ 20 each meal = Total Check Amount: \$ _____

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

To: Betty McCrory, 16435 Amethyst PKWY, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Ph: 260-402-4447 Email: bjoperri@icloud.com

Check # _____

Pay online at [AAUW SignUpGenius March 2026](#)

Thoughts from your President

By Andrea Tarbet

Did you happen to catch this...

Recently members of the U.S. Senate introduced a war powers resolution to prevent President Trump from using force “within or against” Venezuela. This was an attempt to clearly reserve what constitutionally belongs to Congress – the power to declare war. Included in those supporting the resolution was our very own Todd Young and four other Republicans, in a very uncharacteristic move for Young, opposing what Trump wanted.

Ultimately, Trump responded with angry public, and likely private as well, threats against Young. Young ended up capitulating, and the measure was defeated.

Some would say that the stand that Todd Young took was not worth it, since he ended up withdrawing his support. I choose to find a glimmer of hope, in that Todd Young knew he would be opposed by Trump, but at least initially he chose to join four other Republicans in fighting to uphold the constitutional powers granted to our legislative branch.

My takeaway is that the pressure that constituents are putting on their legislators is making a difference.

WE are making a difference.

Don't lose heart. Keep fighting for our country, our constitution, our rights, and equity for women and girls.

After the ICE shootings in Minneapolis and Portland and all the events we've endured as a country recently, I've been feeling traumatized. Angry. Depressed. But I also remain hopeful.

Our past National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman expresses it well in her poem, included on this page.

In solidarity,

Andrea Tarbet

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch President

<mailto:presaaufortwayne@gmail.com>

poem source:

<https://thegrio.com/2026/01/26/amanda-gorman-pens-poem-honoring-alex-pretti-and-the-minnesota-community/>

For Alex Jeffrey Pretti

Murdered by I.C.E January 24, 2026

by Amanda Gorman

We wake with
no words, just woe
& wound. Our own country shoot
ing us in the back is not just brutal
ity; it's jarring betrayal; not enforcement,
but execution. A message: *Love your people & you
will die.* Yet our greatest threat isn't the outsiders
among us, but those among us who never look
within. Fear not the those without papers, but those
without conscience. Know that to care intensively,
united, is to carry both pain-dark horror for today
& a profound, daring hope for tomorrow. We can feel
we have nothing to give, & still believe this world wait
ing, trembling to change. If we cannot find words, may
we find the will; if we ever lose hope, may we never lose our
humanity. The only undying thing is mercy, the courage to open
ourselves like doors, hug our neighbor,
& save one more bright, impossible life.

Membership Matters

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

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.*

New Information / Changes / Corrections to the 2025-26 Yearbook (white cover)

p. 27 – Please record a NEW address for Jane Anderson, one of our Life Members of our Branch, who would appreciate cards:

Jane Anderson
 The Crossings at Noblesville, Room 315
 Noblesville, IN 46062
 Cell: 260-446-2085

p. 28 NEW email for Michelle Casiano: Michelle.Casiano@fwcs.k12.in.us

Members, remember to invite a prospective member to our general meetings. I will bring a packet of information about AAUW as well as an application for membership.

A Note from one of our Interest Groups

The Creative Arts & Service Interest Group completed a volunteer project at Cancer Services of NE Indiana in late October. They decorated the fronts of 64 blank 5" X 7" cards which the organization uses for families who use CS as a memorial for their loved ones. The group has done this for several years and plans for it in their yearly schedule. Want to help or join the group? Contact Monette King (her info is at the top of the page). Check page 6 for future meeting information.

Save the Date 2025-2026 Programs

2026: March 7 – Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana Service Center
 10008 Dupont Circle Dr E Fort Wayne 46825
 May 2 – The Wolf Family Building at Salomon Park Farm
 817 W. Dupont Rd Fort Wayne 46825

AAUW FW Branch Board Meetings for 2025-2026

Location: Ivy Tech Community College
 3800 N Anthony Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Start time is 6:00 pm.

2026: March 9, May 11

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

Silent Auction Fundraiser Update

By Barb Kanning, Auction Chair

First, a large **THANK YOU** to all who brought Auction items AND those who bought them! We certainly had a great variety of things to bid on! I am so pleased to report that we collected **\$1,050**. This is a little more than we were able to raise last year. These funds will stay with our Branch: 50% is allocated for Programming expenses: 25% will help fund the Period Poverty Project; and 25% will be used for general operating expenses. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch Trust – Grant Application Time

By Rhea Ervin, Trust Vice Chair

The mission of AAUW is to empower women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Through the AAUW FW Branch Trust, we have awarded over \$484,000 to fund 422 grants that support local community organizations by funding projects that align with our mission.

The 2026 AAUW Grant Application opened on January 1 and will close on February 28, 2026.

All submitted and completed grants will be scored using the rubric that is linked at the bottom of the application. If you or someone you know has a community-based project that empowers women and girls, please apply! To learn more about the grant requirements or to apply, please click here: [AAUW 2026 GRANT APPLICATION](#)
A flier that can be printed/shared is included with the February 2026 Bulletin – either in the email or in an envelope for those who receive print versions.

Recognition Committee Needs Nominees

By Barb Kanning, Auction Chair

barbkanning@gmail.com (260) 432-5228

Our Branch Recognition Committee is seeking input from any of our members who have ideas/wishes for honoring our local Branch members at our March 7th meeting. In order to get necessary forms and supplies ready, **send your suggestions to Barb Kanning by Monday, February 9th**. The four awards to be given are: Woman of the Year plaque; Eleanor Roosevelt Honoree plaque; and 2 Honor Certificates. Look at pages 16 to 20 in your 2025-26 Yearbook for more detail and to see who has received previous honors.

FW Branch Annual Meeting

The AAUW Fort Wayne Branch will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, March 7, 2026. This meeting will include election of branch officers and presentation of branch recognitions. This year, it will also include a motion from our President regarding Associate Membership in our Branch. Please review the information below before the meeting.

Associate Membership within our Branch

We have had ongoing discussions about adding a new category of membership within our AAUW Branch- Associate Membership. This category of member would allow people without a college degree to be a Branch member; currently only degree holders and students are allowed to be members.

I intend to bring a motion at our annual meeting on Saturday, March 7th, at the Girl Scouts office, to add this category of membership to our Branch, and below are some frequently asked questions about it.

How would Associate Membership be defined?

Associate members would be members of the AAUW branch per our bylaws but would not be AAUW state or national members.

Why should we offer this?

Many of us have known like-minded individuals who would be wonderful members of AAUW but cannot join due to the degree requirement. This is a way to allow these folks to join us and participate.

Education and degrees are important to us in AAUW, and offering this membership does not negate that. There are women who have forsaken their own degrees to work so their children could attend college, or who have other family and personal obligations that prevented them from attending college. That doesn't necessarily mean that they don't value a college education, and if they want to join AAUW, we know that they value what we do- equity for women and girls.

How much would Associate Members pay for dues?

They would pay branch dues only, not state or national dues. To use current dues figures, an Associate Member would pay \$20; regular members pay \$101.00

What rights and privileges would Associate Members have?

They would not have voting rights. They can participate in all branch activities and serve on committees but could not be elected officers to the Branch Board or State Board.

What happens when an Associate Member gets their degree?

First, we celebrate!

The Associate Member graduates to regular membership and is no longer eligible for Associate membership.

This sounds familiar. Did we do this years ago?

Yes, we did. We had a category of membership for non-degree holders and had members in that category.

Please plan to attend the Branch Meeting on Sat., Mar. 7th and vote on this important issue.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Andrea Tarbet

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch President

<mailto:presaaufortwayne@gmail.com>

Interest Groups

Please share updated meeting dates/times locations for 2025-2026 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.

March 3 – The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston

April 7 – The Rose Code by Kate Quinn

May 5 – The Measure by Nikki Erlick

June 2 – Lady Clementine by Marie Benedict

July 7 – Broken Country by Claire Hall

Group Leader: Theresa Brady

Discussion Leader: Carol Burgess

Discussion Leader: Nancy Andrews

Discussion Leader: Barb Kanning

Discussion Leader: Joanne Beerbower

Discussion Leader: Cathy Huff

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 23, 2026 – The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

March 23 – When Harry Met Minnie by Martha Teichner

April 27 – Choose Books

Group Leader: Cheryl Mathews

Reviewer: Linda Hostess: TBD

Reviewer: Lois Hostess: Linda

Hostess: Lois

Creative Arts & Service

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

February 17 – Nori Asian-Fusion, 2882 E Dupont Rd, FW 46825

March 17 – Cork & Cleaver, 221 E. Washington Ctr. Rd, FW 46825

April To Be Determined *(Easter = April 5)

May 19 – Red Lobster 4825 Coldwater Rd, FW 46825 (bring calendar)

Group Leader: Monette King

Hostess: Linda Flatley

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: Rhea Ervin

Corresponding Secretary: Theresa Brady

Director of Finance: Cathy Huff

Chair of AAUW Trust: Dr. JoAnne Alvarez

AAUW Fort Wayne IN Branch Committees

AAUW Funds: Barb Kanning

Bulletin Editor: Theresa Brady

College/University Liaison (IVY Tech): Open

College/University Liaison (PFW): Open

Director of Communications/Media Publicity: Open

Director of Diversity and International Relations: Open

Director of Public Policy: Open

Historian: Open

Member Records: Theresa Brady

Nominating Committee Convener: Open

Recognition Chair: Barb Kanning

Reservations: Betty McCrory



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