

Bulletin

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

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

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AAUW FW Branch May Event

Saturday, May 2, 2026.

[Wolf Family Center at Salomon Farms](#)

817 W. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne, IN

Arrive at 10:30. Speaker at 11:00. **Lunch** at 11:30.

Our Guest Speaker is Sheri Manella from A Baby's Closet on East Berry. This organization is sponsored by Associated Churches and provides for the needs of babies 0-3 yrs.

Bring donations (cash, check or items) for either Period Project OR Baby's Closet. Any baby item is appropriate: diapers, clothes, books, toys, etc.

Lunch is sandwiches, salads, finger desserts, variety of drinks.

Your reservation and \$20/person must be received no later than Monday, April 27.

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch May 2026 Event and Lunch Reservation Form

Saturday, May 2, 2026 arrive 10:30 am - \$20/person

Your reservation and \$20/person **MUST be received by Monday, April 27.**

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](#)

Thoughts from your President

By Andrea Tarbet

Updates and Branch News!

Hi friends,

Our most recent branch meeting on Mar. 7th had a lot going on that I want to ensure everyone knows about.

Cassie Beer, from the **Fort Wayne Women's Fund**, shared their latest report on the economic status of women and girls right here in Allen County. Their full report is online, but it was really helpful to hear local data on how we compare to the rest of the state, and the rest of the country.

We also changed the bylaws in two ways.

First, we voted to add the **Associate Member** category of membership at the Branch level. As we've been discussing for the past year, this will make a place at the table of our membership for those who've not attained a college degree but still value the same things we do. Associate members will pay Branch dues only (currently \$20) and be members at the Branch level, not national or state. They may serve on committees but can't be elected to the Branch or State Board and have no voting rights. This was a branch membership category in the past and now is again.

Second, we voted to amend the bylaws to permit **Trust Board** members to serve three consecutive, two-year terms instead of the previous two, two-year terms. The rationale behind this is that some roles on the Trust Board, most notably the Treasurer role, take time to learn and have been more difficult to fill in the past, so it's helpful to have a longer consecutive time available to serve.

Third, we recognized members for their contributions with the **awards** portion of the program. You will see pictures of the recipients elsewhere in this newsletter, and we appreciate these ladies and their work!

Fourth, we elected **new officers**:

Dr. JoAnne Alvarez, Rhea Ervin and Carol Patterson were re-elected to serve another two-year term on the Trust Board.

On the Branch Board, Theresa Brady was re-elected as Corresponding Secretary. Betty McCrory will be our new Director of Programs. And Stephany Bourne and Dr. Erin Hayden are our new Co-Presidents!

A hearty thank you to all of these women for their willingness to serve. Please give these ladies your support and your assistance as they work on our behalf for our branch.

Happy Spring!

Andrea Tarbet
AAUW Fort Wayne Branch President
[mailto: presaaufortwayne@gmail.com](mailto:presaaufortwayne@gmail.com)

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.*

It's Membership Renewal Time! Our 2025-2026 membership year ends June 30. **Please make sure you have renewed your 2026-2027 membership by May 30, 2026.**

You will find the 2026-27 Dues Renewal Form in this April Bulletin. To save a postage stamp, you could bring this Renewal form and your check to our Branch meeting on May 2nd. After 5/2/26, your form and check should be mailed to our Treasurer, Cathy Huff, by May 30, 2026. *Note: AAUW National dues increased \$2.00 as of April 1, 2026.

As always, if you invite a guest /prospective member to our May meeting, I will bring an AAUW packet for her. Our membership voted to include a Non-Degree Associate Membership to our Branch. Associate Member dues are currently \$20 and may serve on committees, attend Interest Groups, but cannot vote on any AAUW issue. We are looking forward to including more members, both young and older, to our Branch.

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 2nd meeting OR send it to Cathy Huff.

AAUW FW Branch Board Meetings for 2025-2026

Location will be at Ivy Tech Community College

Start time is 6:00 pm.

2026: May 11

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



2026-2027 Dues Renewal Form

Member Name: _____

Please select your dues category:

- REGULAR \$ **103.00** = National AAUW **\$76** + State \$7 + Branch \$20
(Note that \$69 of national dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.)
- PAID LIFE MEMBER \$ **27.00** = State \$7 + Branch \$20
- STUDENT \$ **27.00** = National \$21 + Branch \$ 4 +State \$2
- HONORARY LIFE \$ **0** **Please consider a donation for Branch expenditures.

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 2026-27 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 30, 2026:

Cathy Huff 4329 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 C: (260) 414-3916

Pay online at <https://aauwfortwayne.org/online-payments/> by May 30.





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

By Dr. JoAnne Alvarez, Chair of AAUW Trust

Join us on **Monday, April 20, 2026**, for the **AAUW Trust Community Meeting**, where we will highlight several Fort Wayne nonprofit organizations making a meaningful impact in our community.

During the evening, we will hear from last year's grant recipients as they share the projects they completed with support from AAUW funds. We will also introduce this year's grant awardees and learn about the exciting initiatives they plan to launch with their newly awarded funding.

The event will be held at **Ivy Tech Community College, Coliseum Campus Auditorium (Room CC1200)**, located at **3800 N. Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne**. For convenient access to the auditorium, please park in the lot closest to **Crescent Avenue**.

We look forward to an inspiring evening celebrating the power of community partnerships and the impact of local nonprofit work.

2026 Annual Meeting Elections and Associate Member Votes

The following members were elected for officer positions for 2026-2028. Terms begin in July.

Co-Presidents – Stephany Bourne and Erin Hayden

Director of Programs – Betty McCrory

Corresponding Secretary – Theresa Brady

The following members were elected to serve on the Trust Board for 2026-2028. Terms begin in July.

JoAnne Alvarez

Rhea Ervin

Carol Patterson

All six officers begin their new terms on July 1st, 2026. When you see them, please thank them for their willingness to serve!

The members of the AAUW Fort Wayne Branch **approved** two items:

- To include a Non-Degree Associate Membership to our Branch. Associate Member dues are currently \$20 and may serve on committees, attend Interest Groups, but cannot vote on any AAUW issue. Refer to the February 2026 issue of The Bulletin for more details.
- To amend the bylaws to permit Trust Board members to serve 3 consecutive, 2-year terms.

Cassie Beer, was our guest speaker at the AAUW Fort Wayne Branch 2026 Annual Meeting.



The Women’s Fund of Greater Fort Wayne acts as a catalyst to strengthen our community. We mobilize resources and establish research informed priorities to close opportunity gaps for women and girls regardless of place, race and identity. We are driven to create systems-level change to positively affect women and girls throughout our community. Investing in women has a ripple effect, benefiting not just her family, but the greater community. The Women's Fund is an initiative of the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne.

In 2025, the [Women’s Fund of Greater Fort Wayne](#) conducted a follow-up study to provide an updated assessment of the status of women and girls in Allen County. The study centered on the Fund’s three focus areas identified from the 2020 study: Economic Security, Personal Safety, and Young Women & Girls.

This work builds on insights from the original 2020 Allen County Women and Girls Study, which first examined the data and the “why” behind some of the biggest hardships and barriers women and girls face in our community.

The world women and girls live in today has shifted significantly over the last five years, and the injustices facing them persist.

[Access the 2025 Moving What Matters Update](#)

Fort Wayne Branch Honors Given

Barb Kanning, Recognition Chair

On March 7 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 Cheryl Mathews, Cathy Huff, Terri Stumpf 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 **Andrea Tarbet**. She will have completed her two terms as Branch President on June 30, 2026. In that office, she has effectively led our Branch; served on our AAUW Fort Wayne Trust; organized all Branch business; and spearheaded the Branch Nominations for 2026-2028, as the office is vacant. She actively promotes our mission within our community!

Eleanor Roosevelt Award - to a member who promotes the ideals of Eleanor Roosevelt in our community, a plaque was given to **Cathy Huff** - She exemplifies the ideals of service and advocacy for women in AAUW, serving as our Branch Treasurer after taking over midterm; and also serves as our Indiana Treasurer at the state level; serves on the Recognition Committee; and continues helping wherever needed!

Branch Emerging Leader: **Betty McCrory** - She began immediately after joining AAUW to serve on the Program committee. Next, she assumed the position of Registrar until June 30, 2026. And, at our Annual Meeting, Betty was elected Program Chair for the 2026-2028 term!

Creator and Coordinator of the Period Poverty Project: **Stephany Bourne** - She saw the need; connected with FWCS; set up collections with our Branch members; applied and received AAUW grant money; and continues to receive donations, purchases and delivers products to the supply nurse!

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone! When you see these members, please personally congratulate them for their dedication and service, promoting education and equity for all women and girls.



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 (mostly) the ACPL Main Branch.

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: 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.

April 27 – Choose Books

Group Leader: Cheryl Mathews

Hostess: Lois

Creative Arts & Service

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

April 21 – Black Canyon 1509 W Dupont Rd, FW 46825

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

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: 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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