

AAUW Birmingham Branch Annual Report

2022-2023

President

The 2022-23 began with another successful virtual fundraiser through the efforts of the Branch Foundation Board. Members of the Foundation Board and Scholarship Committee have been able to add an additional scholarship to a student from Pontiac School District with the generous support of the Branch membership. Recipients are also now able to re-apply for continued support while in school if established criteria are demonstrated. High school students come from Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and Pontiac School districts. Scholarships are also awarded to students from Oakland Community College, Walsh College, and Lawrence Tech University.

Each One Bring One was also held in the fall and brought us new members. There have been follow-up gatherings in an effort to help new members feel welcome. The New Member Mentorship program has also been reinstated. Other than January and February (a ZOOM meeting with speaker was presented each month), the monthly luncheons were held with excellent speakers. While attendance increased some, it was still lower than pre-pandemic number.

The branch has increased their involvement with assistance to Big Family of Michigan and seems likely to continue with that. Currently we are holding a "Pillowcase Project" and have asked members to either make pillowcases (we have some assembled kits) or donate the cases which will then be used for holiday gift wrapping. The Branch also continues to provide donations for Bound Together.

This year the Branch will also be having the Lavish Luncheon at Wabeek Country Club in May. The theme is Recycle, Reuse, and Repurpose and we will have speakers, a fashion show, and vendors.

The Branch board continues to seek ways to maintain (and increase) enrollment. We are still hoping to be able to provide STEM support for local high school girls. The Explorathon format does not seem to coincide with newer policies in the schools with regard to buses and facilities. Branches across the state have reported a loss of membership and people willing to take on leadership roles. In my opinion, this is something we need to address for the future.

VP- Program - Kathy Stasys

After consulting with other AAUW members (board and general membership), the VP for Programs creates a list of potential speakers for the following year. It is suggested to keep a list of previous speakers and the list of potential speakers for future reference. During the spring, the VP contacts speakers and arranges for the month (October to May) they are available. January and February were Zoom meetings. A final list must be ready for the July printing of the Birmingham AAUW calendar. The VP contacts each month's guest speaker a week or two before the scheduled event to determine what the speaker may need as equipment for his/her presentation, to determine if the speaker has any special dietary needs for the luncheon, to give directions to the venue, and to establish a welcome to the Birmingham AAUW. The speaker is entitled to a stipend of \$100 to \$150; some speakers do not accept stipends. Programs are the second Wednesday of the month; however, be cognizant of various religious holidays that may fall on a Wednesday. Since September is Open House, Each One Bring One there is no speaker required. Alternate May meetings are the Lavish Lunch Fund raiser. The May 2022 luncheon was a Derby themed party with no speaker; perhaps this could become another alternate year luncheon. The Programs VP works in connection with the Menus and Venues Program Coordinators to facilitate the speaker's needs and in connection with the Hospitality Committee for appropriate nametags. On the day of the luncheon, the VP greets the speaker, gives introductions, and sits with the speaker at the Speaker's table. After the program, the VP arranges with the Treasurer for the appropriate stipend and follows with a verbal and written thank you. During the year, many members may offer suggestions for speakers. It is possible to arrange for some speakers over a year ahead of time. The speakers for the 2022-2023 year were: October: Mary Pollock, AAUW Government Relations Coordinator November: Dr. Embekka Roberson, Superintendent of Birmingham Public Schools December: Kelly Ann Francis, entertainer January: Ruth

Holmes, Handwriting Examiner February: Andrea Durkin, Women in International Trade March: Julian Morian, Rochester Hills Library Director April: Carol Sheldon, Women's Softball

VP-Membership Katie Wiese

Thanks to our members reaching out to potential members, the Birmingham Branch membership has remained steady with 168 members. Our September meeting was "Each One, Bring One" where members were invited to bring a friend to learn about our branch. This resulted in half a dozen new members. In November, new members were invited to a Welcome Brunch with the Branch Executive Board. A good time was had by all.

Throughout the year, branch members have invited friends to luncheons and special interest groups. This has also resulted in new members. To get to know our new members better, newsletters have featured short profiles of our new members.

A statewide Membership Vice Presidents' meeting discussed the importance of mentoring and connecting with new members. We established an Ambassador Program to pair each of our new members with a "Big Sister" to make them feel welcome and included in activities.

An updated membership directory will be placed in a password protected area of the Birmingham Branch website.

AAUW National has made some significant changes to the way renewals are managed. In the past, membership ran from July 1 to June 30, so everyone's membership expired at the end June. National has revised memberships, so your membership now expires one year after your renewal, and you may join or renew anytime during the year. Most Birmingham Branch memberships will expire at the end of June this year.

You will receive an email from AAUW National reminding you that your membership is expiring. You may use the email link to renew your membership and pay with a credit card. The June Newsletter will have more information on how to renew your membership if you wish to pay by check.

Special thanks to Sharon McKenna, dues treasurer, for efficiently keeping the membership database up to date.

Recording Secretary Cynthia Longhway

1. Maintain the two most recent fiscal years of approved, printed board minutes in the recording secretary's notebook.
2. Ensure that printed committee reports distributed at a board meeting are included with the board minutes for that month.
3. Sort then remove documents such as the attendance sign in sheet, the handwritten motion forms, monthly meeting agendas, and other extra papers once the meeting minutes have been approved.
4. Maintain monthly the printed motion log in the recording secretary's notebook.
5. Ensure that the archive of minutes includes printed copies of approved board minutes by fiscal year.
6. Ensure that the annual meeting minutes with the report from the board are maintained as part of the recording secretary's notebook or archived with the monthly meeting minutes.
7. Move the minutes to the archive yearly to maintain records in the archive and the recording secretary's notebook. For example, move the 2014-15 monthly minutes to the archive at the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
8. Minutes are maintained into perpetuity.

Note: The fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year.

Corresponding Secretary Rita Dates

Ten times a year, From August to April, approximately thirteen bulletins per month are prepared and mailed to branch members. Thirty-four "thinking of you", get well or sympathy cards were sent to members or their families.

Treasurer Nancy O'Connor

The Treasurer, with assistance from the dues Treasurer is responsible for collecting, distributing, and accounting for the funds of the Birmingham Branch. Branch financial documents showing the collection and distribution of Branch funds were reported to the AAUW Birmingham Branch Board at each of its monthly meetings and were filed as presented. The proposed budget for 2023-2024 will be reviewed by the Finance Committee prior to the April Board meeting and financial books will be reviewed by the Finance Committee at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

AAUW Funds Karen Boyk

To keep our members aware of what is happening in AAUW at the national level, I submit an article each month with information from the National website. It's usually about a program that supports our mission, and there's a link to encourage members to go to the website for more information.

This fall one of our long-time, dedicated members, Pamela Hoffman, passed away, so our donations this year to AAUW Funds were sent in honor of Pam.

Articles were posted in the November and December bulletins, and I spoke at both luncheon meetings.

Donation checks were mailed to me, and I made deposits to our Foundation account. At the end of the year, I completed the form and sent the donation to National AAUW.

This year we were able to donate \$5500 to the National "Greatest Need" fund.

Bulletin TBD

The monthly bulletin was published each month (with the exception of July-August) by a team since the retirement of the previous editor. Articles, events, notices, and reports are collected and sent to be placed in the newsletter format. Once this is complete the bulletin is sent out to be proofread by several member volunteers. The edited and complete newsletter is sent to the electronic communications chair and emailed to the membership. Each month approximately 13 bulletins are physically printed and mailed upon request.

Bylaws and Policy Sue Longstreet

Our bylaws were brought into compliance with State AAUW requirements in 2020, and no revisions have been required since then.

To be environmentally responsible, we continued our "On Demand" request system for updated policy binder documents. Board members place their requests and the specific pages they need are printed and hand delivered to them (as opposed to mass pre-printing for distribution at board meetings).

In addition, the Technology Chair has uploaded our documents to the affiliate website, making them available for all members to see, and for anyone to print copies as they desire.

Communications/Website Katie Wiese

Throughout the year, the Birmingham Branch website <https://birmingham-mi.aauw.net/> has been kept current from the information submitted by committee chairs. The website was reorganized, to make it easier for members to find information. Remember, the website is only as good as the information you provide. Email pictures and information to katie.wiese@att.net

A PayPal button was added to the website to allow members to make donations to the Birmingham Branch Foundation on-line. With the publication of the recently updated directory, we are working to set up a password protected page on the site that will allow us to have member information in a protected area.

Diversity Elizabeth Snyder

Opportunities are shared with members for learning about diversity in the local area through meetings, reports, and bulletin articles.

Dues Treasurer Sharon McKenna

Dues were collected from members from April through November. Renewed memberships are recorded in the Branch database, as well as the National Roster. With the help of other dedicated email messages, phone calls and reminders at Study and Interest groups, we do our best to get everyone renewed by the end of October.

We registered 10 new members at Each One Bring One in September and 5 additional new members at new member events throughout the year. New members are entered into our database and recorded with the National Roster all through the year.

The Dues Treasurer maintains the Branch database, updating contact information throughout the year. We have not printed a complete annual yearbook/directory for several years, primarily due to the pandemic circumstances. Discussion has begun at the board level to make an up-to-date directory available to members throughout the year. This is complicated by the change in membership expiration dates initiated at the national level; several alternatives are being considered.

As of this date, we have 180 paid members. (Down from 189 members at this time last year.)

Education Equity Lucinda Clement

The education chair informs the board and membership of local, state, and national issues on education through reports.

Electronic Communications Sharon McKenna

Email notices are sent to the Branch database for announcements, notices, and the bulletin.

Historian Sue Winowiecki

News articles are kept and shared with the membership.

Hospitality Christine Dagenais and Nancy O'Connor

The Hospitality Co-chairs receive and deposit the receipts for the monthly luncheons. We also prepare name tags for each person who attends the monthly luncheons. The deadline for the luncheon is always the first Wednesday of the month, one week before the luncheon. We call the number of attendees to the venue on the first Friday of the month and sometimes increase that number on the following Monday. The luncheon receipts are deposited at the Credit Union in Birmingham where the Branch has an account, and the deposit ticket is turned over to the Branch treasurer.

The October luncheon was held at The Iroquois' Club with 51 people in attendance. The November luncheon at The Iroquois Club had 53 people in attendance. The December luncheon at The Iroquois Club had 38 in attendance. The January and February 2023 luncheons were not held in person. The March 2023, luncheon at Forest Lake Country Club had 36 in attendance.

Several guests have joined the branch at the luncheons and their numbers are included in the counts given in the preceding paragraph.

International Relations Linda Schnorbus

The International Relations group has been studying the country of Turkey: its history, religions, economics, government, politics, and education. These topics cover the positive and negative effects these systems have on Turkey's international relations. AAUW continues its alliances with international organizations such as the United Nations and the Women First International Fund working for positive change for women.

Program Coordinators (Menus and Venues) JoAnne Brown and Colette Stager

This year we chose to have five Membership Luncheons instead of our usual seven. October, November, December, at the Iroquois Club. March and April, we decided to go to Forest Lake Country Club, to keep our costs the same for the second half of the year. Both Country Clubs were lovely and we had excellent service.

In May we'll be having our, "Lavish Luncheon," fundraiser at Wabeek Country Club. We're looking forward to having another great luncheon event.

Public Policy Sally Doty

AAUW Birmingham, Michigan Public Policy

The Public Policy Study Group meets monthly, September through June, to discuss or/or listen to speakers regarding issues based on the AAUW and AAUWMI Public Policy Priorities. These can be found at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/> and <https://www.aauwmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/AAUW-of-Michigan-Public-Policy-Priorities-2021-2023.pdf>

Our schedule this year has included:

Listening to and discussing an interview with Kristen Du Mez, author of *Jesus and John Wayne: How Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*.

Marcia Gershenson, Oakland County District Commissioner, spoke about the issues and work done by the commission relative to AAUW priorities.

Discussing Election Results and how they fit with our mission.

A presentation by N'Kenge Gonzalez, AAUWMI DEI director, regarding the DEI activities and programs available on the AAUW website and how they can be used by branches or other groups to increase our awareness of the issues relating to branch membership and activities.

David A. Dulio, Professor of Political Science Department and Director of the Center for Civic Engagement at Oakland University, will be discussing the recent election and his take on the effects for the future. David Dulio is also a former American Political Science Congressional Fellow on Capitol Hill where he worked in the U.S. House of Representatives.

David Dulio was kind enough to invite us to join the Oakland University Office Hour presentation on the increase of antisemitism, especially on college campuses. In conjunction with Elizabeth Snyder, Diversity chairperson, we met at the Holocaust Center for a docent led tour.

We have two more discussions scheduled – Critical Race Theory, "Dis" and "Mis", a LWV powerpoint

Contact Sally Doty, 248-909-4583 (text preferred) or sallyaauw@gmail.com.

Study/Interest Groups Sharon McKenna and Linda Kevorkian

This committee keeps track of monthly activities, provides for communication through the Study/ Interest group leaders, and sets up the reception at Each One Bring One each year.

Ways & Means Patty Orłowski

The Ways and Means Committee did not meet this year

Scholarship Representative – Eileen Hitz

Maintain contact with various schools, colleges and universities that receive branch scholarships

Our current recipients are from: Birmingham Scholar, Bloomfield Hills, Pontiac School District, Lawrence Technological Institute, Walsh College, Oakland CC, and potentially Pontiac High School. Provisions have been established for scholarship recipients to re-apply in subsequent years for continued scholarship support.

In the past year, A student from Pontiac School District has been added.

Keep president and board informed of the names of the recipients

Attend functions involving scholars.

Give appropriate contact information to treasurer for payment

Inform newsletter editor of names of recipients when appropriate

Make sure bylaws and policies are followed