



AAUW Boise News and Events
December 2023
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AAUW Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Welcome New Members

**JYLANA COLLINS
CYNTHIA GRAY
BONNIE NOONAN
SHARON REMBOWSKI
MARY BETH STABEN**

who joined our branch in November 2023.

Presidents' Message
by Ann Lewis and David Scott

Tis the season for greetings, good cheer, and perhaps a glass of mulled wine. Santa

sent us his list and we're happy to report that the AAUW Boise Area Branch was on the Very Good List! Thanks to you, we have collected enough Inez Robb supplemental funds to support another full semester at BSU for a deserving female student. Our membership continues to be fluid, with new members each month. So, as we head into the New Year, we have much to be grateful for, especially for this vibrant and caring community of which we are a part.

As previously mentioned, over the next few months, we will be identifying organizations to be the recipients of funding from us. Certainly, this will include STEM-related activities and, most likely, an early childhood education focus. If you are aware of and would like to suggest organizations that match our mission of supporting women and girls in the Treasure Valley, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to some good programs, to reactivating Lobby Corps once the legislature is in session in January, and to stocking the shelves of the [BSU Campus Food Pantry](#). We are told that the staff at the pantry are always excited when our goods are delivered by the AAUW elves. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a very happy New Year.

December Holiday Luncheon by Sheila Robbins and Fran Voulelis

Please join us on December 9th at 11:00 a.m. at the Riverside Hotel for our annual Holiday Luncheon. Ellie McKinnon, Executive Director of [Artisans for Hope](#), will be our presenter. As many of you know, [Artisans for Hope](#) is a nonprofit organization which helps refugees learn skills and connects them to the Boise community. Ellie will share with us how the organization helps refugees develop skills such as language acquisition and how to integrate within the community. Of course, we will have the opportunity to purchase some of those unique hand-made items at the Riverside Fireplace Foyer prior to the luncheon. Please be sure to bring cash, checks or your credit card!

Additionally, donations will be accepted for the [BSU Campus Food Pantry](#).

Membership Update by Pam Cardinale and Beth Popish

At our last board meeting, we discussed the retention of members in AAUW. We seem to do a great job at recruiting and bringing in new members. We love our organization and are happy to tell others about it. However, year after year, our total membership number remains relatively flat. That means that we are losing members at about the same rate as we are attracting new members. While some people move away, or have schedule conflicts, or have personal or health reasons for leaving, it is possible that some just don't seem to become comfortable or feel welcome or find their place in our organization.

So, what can we do? If you recruit a new member, take them under your wing. Introduce them to others. Follow up with them. Encourage them to attend small groups (possibly with you accompanying them). If you aren't the one who recruited a new member, look for people who have red stars on their badges. The red stars mean that they have been members for less than a year. Make a point of starting conversations with them and including them, even when you are busy catching up with old friends! If you are a new member, try to go to Newcomers meetings and other small groups, such as Daytimers, Movie Group, or one of the many book groups. It is easier to meet and connect with other people in a smaller setting. Get involved in as many activities as possible until you find your niche. New members keep our organization dynamic and diverse!

If you have any questions on membership renewal or interest groups or any other questions about AAUW, feel free to contact Pam at 208-573-2284 (phone or text) or cardinales@frontier.com. Beth can be reached at 307-262-2944 (phone or text) or elizabethpopish@gmail.com. One or both of us are at all general meetings and usually one of us is at Newcomers as well. We are here for you!

Funds Update

by Karen Hineman

We had a very successful Inez Robb fundraising campaign in November. At the meeting we added \$475 to the Inez Robb Scholarship Fund and \$2430 to the Supplement. Also the Bowling and Knitting groups raised over \$350 for STEM programs our branch supports. Thanks to all who donated!

Our 2nd Annual Spring Fling Fundraiser is set for April 10, 2024. Most of the program will be the same as last April's event but with some minor but necessary changes based on feedback the Fundraising Committee received. If you would like to donate a bottle (or bottles) of wine valued at \$25 or more for

the event please bring the donation in to any branch meeting between December 2023 and March 2024. Or contact [Linda Packer](#) or [myself](#) if you need to arrange other delivery options. Donation forms will be available at the December, January and February meetings and 'Save the Date cards will be handed out in January and February. Start thinking about the vacation rental, special event or dinner party you can donate to the silent or live auctions as well as letting your family and friends know they are invited to the party. Also if you have artistic talents and want to donate a picture, small painting or photo and could help design the Spring Fling invitation please contact me. It would be wonderful to have the artwork on the invitation be designed by a member of our branch.

Public Policy Update
by Mary Ruckh

**2024 Idaho Legislature to convene January 8 and aims to adjourn
March 22: hold onto your hats people!**

“Good day AAUW Boise Branch members. My name is Mary Ruckh and I am writing to you today in support of many members joining the AAUW Idaho State Lobby Corps. Lobbying our legislators is an essential activity of committed citizens. It is clear that our collective voices will be better heard by our legislators when there are many of us present at our state Capitol building during the months of January - March, 2024.

Finally, I entreat all Boise Branch members to plan on attending the January 2024 training and information session that will build your confidence to make your voices heard about issues and bills important to our cause to better this world for girls and women. Thank you for reading this.”

See, that doesn't seem hard, does it? This is an example of how your in-person or online testimony to a committee might be structured. It is advantageous to write your thoughts and opinions down on paper and then speak your mind at a legislative committee meeting! Our voices and opinions count.

Plan to attend the January training and more details will follow.

STEM News
by Deborah Newton

A recent study by the [National Association of Colleges and Employers \(NACE\)](#) and [Break Through Tech at Cornell University](#) looked at the challenges that face undergraduate women who are entering STEM fields. In particular, they focused on career services and the impact those services have on students and their future success.

We know that, traditionally, fewer women enter STEM fields, but it is also important to note that women who do choose these high-demand careers, face many gender-related challenges. This study examined some of those challenges. One of the key findings is the impact college career services can have in leveling the playing field for women in general and in particular for women pursuing tech careers. Specifically, the study found that in general, undergraduate men get more job offers than undergraduate women regardless of whether they use career services. However, when undergraduate women earning STEM-related degrees use career services, they get MORE job offers than their male counterparts.

The study also found that the importance of mentoring cannot be understated. Last year, AAUW Boise donated to [Big Brothers, Big Sisters \(BBBS\)](#) to help with their STEM program. [BBBS](#) provides a direct link between young girls and professionals in STEM fields. I am hopeful that we can continue this important partnership.

If you are interested, here is a link to the article: [Women Pursuing Tech Careers](#).

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Deborah Newton, deborahnewton59@gmail.com.

Book Group (Mystery) by Linda Anderson

The Mystery Book Group will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 11th at the home of Sheila Robbins, 362 W. Charwood Court. The book is *Blind Search* by Paula Munier. Sheila will lead the discussion. Please bring whatever you would like the drink and an appetizer to share with the group.

To be added to our mailing list, send your name to:
s.linda.anderson@gmail.com.

We hope you will join us!

Book Group (Sunday) - In Person
by Carolyn Lunstrum

The AAUW Sunday afternoon in-person book group will meet on Sunday afternoon, December 17th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Mary Ruckh's home, 3396 E. Dowling Mill Court in Boise, for a holiday party. No specific book has been selected for discussion.

The group will discuss "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett at its January meeting.

Book Group (Sunday) - Zoom
by Valerie Steffen

The AAUW Zoomers Book Group will finish the year with a discussion of Barbara Kingsolver's latest book, *Demon Copperhead*, a modern American re-telling of Dickens's classic David Copperfield. Set in Appalachia, the book tells the story of America's rural-urban divide, our failed foster care system, and the then nascent opioid epidemic, all with Kingsolver's trademark insight, heart, and optimism. Join us by Zoom on Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 p.m. Contact [Kathy Scott](#) if you need a Zoom invitation.

Book Group (Thursday)
by Linda Simmons

The AAUW Thursday Evening Book Group will meet on December 14th at 6:00 pm at the Hillcrest Library (5246 W. Overland Road). Kris Hooker will be the discussion facilitator. The book we are reviewing is *Dissenter on the Bench* by Victoria Ochi.

Bowling News
by Karen Haven and Deborah Newton

You may not know this, but each time we meet, the bowling group raises money for STEM. We each donate \$1.00 every time we meet for bowling. And, sometimes, when a bowler does something amazing, we are all inspired to give more. For example, Martha Lund recently bowled a turkey (three strikes in a row) and everyone pitched in more money to celebrate her accomplishment.

We meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month, 10:00 a.m. at Westy's on Chinden. Come have fun and help benefit STEM. Please direct any questions to the following:

Deborah Newton Deborahnewton59@gmail.com

Karen Haven Lambeaurocks66@hotmail.com

Daytimers Group
by Marsha Bravo and Roberta Olson

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19
10:30 to noon

IDAHO STATE MUSEUM
610 Julia Davis Drive.

Purchase tickets online at:

<https://store.history.idaho.gov/Tickets.aspx>

Youth \$5.00

Adult \$10.00

Senior \$8.00

Lunch at Cottonwood Grille-12:15 pm

Please email Roberta at robertaolson22@gmail.com if you would like to join us for lunch.

Friends and Family are always welcome to join us!

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope

Known for his entertainment supporting troops during World War II, Bob Hope has become a fixture of mid-twentieth century popular culture. But what does Hope's legacy mean to the world today? *So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope* shares his beliefs that laughter is a great elixir and that finding joy in what you do can uplift others. Laughter and generosity are paramount, and some golf and good comedic timing help, too!

Movie Group
by Pat Alpine

The November Movie Group attendees decided that due to everyone's busy Holiday schedules we will not meet in December. We will resume this meeting in January 2024.

Needleworkers Group
by Donna Looze

Needleworkers just welcomed a new member to our ranks: Mary Beth Staben! Mary Beth does needlepoint, quilts, and also knits. Our group has just changed meeting locations. We will now be meeting at the Garden City Public Library. We will have our own meeting room! We look forward to a quiet spot where we no longer have to yell over the coffee shop crowd to be heard!

Newcomers Group
by Stacy Urban

The Newcomers Group normally meets the first Thursday of the month. In December, we will not be having a meeting. Instead, we encourage all new members to attend the AAUW Boise Area Branch Holiday Luncheon on Saturday, December 9th, at the Riverside Hotel.

For more information about Newcomers Group, contact the Membership VPs as we make the transition to a new leader for Newcomers.

Late-breaking news

We have just learned that Stacy Urban, who started and managed Newcomers Group for a number of years, is returning to Whidbey Island in the very near future. We thank Stacy for her valuable work for the Boise Area Branch and wish her the best as she rejoins her family in Washington.

BRANCH BOARD

ELECTED OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

Ann Lewis and David Scott

President-Elect

Martha Lund

Co-Vice Presidents, Membership

Pam Cardinale and Beth Popish

Co-Vice Presidents, Programs

Sheila Robbins and Fran Voulelis

Finance Officer

Sally Stone

Finance Officer-Elect

Nancy Gray

Secretary

Jan Bracken

APPOINTED MEMBERS

501(c)(3) Compliance

Administrator

Julie Custer

Funds Chair

Karen Hineman

Public Policy Chair

Mary Ruckh

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Boise State Campus Food Pantry

Kathy Scott

Directory (DirectorySpot)

Julie Custer

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Inez Robb Scholarship Committee Chair

Nancy Otterness

Menstrual Products

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David Scott

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Gerti Arnold, Tracy Bicknell-Holmes,
and Norma Lloyd

Ready Idaho Coalition

Patty Underwood

Service Recognition Scholarship

Norma Lloyd

Social Media

TBD

Special Events Coordinator

Amie Bruggeman

STEM Chair

Deborah Newton

Web Editor

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ZOOM Coordinator

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