



**AAUW Boise News and Events**  
**February 2025**  
<https://boise-id.aauw.net/>

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### **AAUW Mission**

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

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### **Welcome New Members**

**KRISTA BRODERICK  
ARLENE KING  
JULIE LANE  
ANN NAGEL  
STACY PEARSON  
BARBARA STERNER**

**who joined our branch in January 2025.**

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**President's Message**  
**by Martha Lund**



It's February, when the cold has started to get to us and world and national events have caused our spirits to flag. However, we can anticipate the arrival of spring and provide the support for each other to get through the winter. The Women's March was uplifting, to see the variety and numbers in the Boise area that support women as we do.

On to news of our branch! We have received our tri-annual financial assessment (thank you, Wayne Rancourt!) and it has been reviewed by the board. It will be posted on our website. In a nutshell, we are doing quite well. There are a couple of procedures that will be changed regarding the Finance Officer's duties to safeguard against fraud but, in general, everything checks out great.

With the Spring Fling coming up in a couple of months, now is the time to spend the money we raised last year at the spring fling. Deb Newton, our STEM coordinator, presented her recommendations for STEM donations to our board in January. We also donated to the Women's Leadership Conference at BSU in the fall for scholarships and, of course, our scholarship committees are hard at work determining our scholarship winners for our Inez Robb and high school Service Recognition scholarships. We will also donate to an early childhood learning program to be chosen soon.

Our membership is growing! I have written welcome letters to 6 new members just this month. As we grow, we need to keep the feeling of a welcoming, tight knit organization that we have always had. Please reach out to people you don't recognize and, if you are new, please consider joining one or two interest groups—the best way to get to know people fast! I hope to see all of you in the coming days, at small groups or our monthly meeting. Until then I say hang in there!

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**February Branch Meeting  
by Amy Taivalkoski and Fran Voulelis**



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Gender issues have gained increasing attention in the last decade both

culturally and politically. The vocabulary and intricacies of the issues can be confusing.

How clear are you on the differences between Transgender, Transsexual, Genderqueer , Gender nonconforming, Multi gendered, Third gender, Two-spirit, etc...? What are the pros and cons of giving puberty blockers to teens? Should the government be part of these decisions?

Anti-discrimination laws in most U.S. cities and states do not protect transgender people from discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression. Consequently, transgender people in most cities and states face legalized discrimination in nearly every aspect of their lives - discrimination in employment, housing, health care, education, legal systems, and even in their families.

Come to the February 18th meeting to learn about these transgender issues from someone who has first hand, up close, and personal knowledge and experience. Sara LaWall is the parent of a trans youth and is well versed in all that trans individuals face (medical, legal and psychological) as well as the current laws targeting our trans community. She is happy to hear that AAUW is interested in educating their members so they can be even better advocates.

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### **Membership News** by Sue Bolen and Beth Popish



Though you may have joined AAUW for its powerful mission and fascinating programs, it is the friendships made within our organization that keep our members coming back each year. If you are a newer member who wishes to meet people at a deeper level than general meetings, please consider joining one of the many small interest groups available in our Boise branch. Most of the groups can be joined midyear and welcome new members. If you're an avid reader, you might consider one of our **four book groups** or the **Movie Group** if you'd rather watch than read. **Day Trippers** plan monthly outings to a wide variety of interesting places throughout the area while the **Bowling Group** gathers to perfect their strikes. **Needleworkers** not only enjoy creating together, but go on to sell their products as a fundraiser. If you have more lofty ambitions, try our **Great Decisions Group** or **Lobby Corps**, which focuses on

legislative issues within our state. No matter what your passions or pleasures, you're sure to find a group of like-minded individuals. And if you don't find something that fits the bill, we encourage you to consider starting your own special interest group. So many options, so little time!

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**Spring Fling Fundraiser**  
by Heidi Bogert



The planning for the April Spring Fling Gala and Fundraiser on April 16th is ongoing and we appreciate the donors of 31 bottles of wine at our January meeting.

For February and March meetings, we ask that the bottle(s) have a value of \$25 or more and we will collect them as you check into the meetings. If you aren't able to bring a bottle, but would like to donate, our volunteers will be happy to arrange a pick-up. Please contact Linda Packer 208-308-0089 ([lindap46@gmail.com](mailto:lindap46@gmail.com)) or Kathy Haze 949-293-8834 ([kathyhaze2150@gmail.com](mailto:kathyhaze2150@gmail.com)).

At a very fun Newcomer's meeting in January, several ideas were proposed for the silent auction and it looks very creative. For the April newsletter, we can give you a few of items that will be in the silent auction.

If you think of an event or item to donate, please let us know. You may email me at [hbogert@gmail.com](mailto:hbogert@gmail.com) or call 208-867-8024.

Our February 7th planning meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. and we welcome anyone who would like to participate. The location is the Broadway Albertsons, upstairs.

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**Branch Public Policy News**  
by Mary Ruckh



Now is the time to exercise our civic duties!

The Board of the Boise Branch of AAUW has chosen three policy issues on

which to focus during the 2025 Idaho State legislative session:

1. Women's/girls' healthcare especially as it relates to the current highly restrictive Idaho abortion laws that do not take into account the health of the mother when making medical decisions;
2. School funding proposals especially as they relate to schemes that would allow tax dollars to pay for private or religious schools;
3. Regressive policies that negatively impact women in higher education.

Please join our AAUW Lobby Corps. AAUW Idaho president Mary Mosley and I will send emails and texts to you asking that you participate as you can by writing emails to legislators both at the Committee level and House/Senate level. You might be asked to come down to the Capitol and provide support to members testifying. Perhaps you will decide to testify yourself, online or in person. Maybe writing a letter to the editor of one of our Idaho papers is something you could do. Notification of the need for any of these actions is often late in the day so always check your email or telephone to see if your action is needed.

**\*\*Consider joining Idaho Women in Action for lots of high-quality information about bills being proposed this year. Contact the organizer, Diane Garvey, to ask to be added to her email list: [dianeschwarz@hotmail.com](mailto:dianeschwarz@hotmail.com)**

Here are a few websites to check out:

- See committee agendas every day to find out what bills will be heard: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/committee-calendar/>
- Use this link to see a nonpartisan listing of status of all bills being considered: <https://legiscan.com/ID>
- Email the governor: <https://gov.idaho.gov/contact-us/>
- Use this link to see who is on all legislative committees: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/committees/>

Stay in tune with us. Join Lobby Corps if you haven't already. Contact me and I will get you on the list: [mruckh@gmail.com](mailto:mruckh@gmail.com) or 262-212-8829.

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**Possible New Interest Group**  
by Valerie Steffen



I'm interested in starting an Indian Cooking Group to prepare and share curries and other Indian cuisine adventures. Format and meeting times will be decided by participants.

If you're interested in joining this group, please contact me at [valerie@electric-logic.com](mailto:valerie@electric-logic.com).

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**STEM News**  
by Deborah Newton



Boise State University is holding a science and engineering fair on February 22d at 10:00 a.m. This event features a diverse range of exhibits and activities, including robotics, circuitry, virtual reality, 3D printing and expert-led presentations of various scientific and engineering disciplines. With various hands-on experiences, the festival provides the ability for attendees to ignite curiosity and spark interest in STEM field. It is open to all age groups. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is free to all.

The Needleworkers Group works to make money for STEM by sewing/knitting/crocheting all kinds of fun and useful items. You may have noticed the table at the back of the meeting rooms. They try to add new things each month so please stop by at the next meeting. You may find a great gift and help STEM at the same time.

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**Book Group (Mystery)**  
by Linda Anderson



The Mystery Book Group will meet on Monday, February 10th, at 6:00 p.m., at the home of Linda Anderson, 323 W Jefferson, # 506. The book is *Then She Was Gone* by Lisa Jewell. Kay Reed will lead the discussion. To be added to

the list, please email Linda Anderson at [s.linda.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:s.linda.anderson@gmail.com).

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**Book Group (Sunday) - In Person**  
by Carolyn Lunstrum



The Sunday Afternoon In-Person Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on February 16th at the Pioneer Federal Credit Union Building, 2350 S, Broadway Avenue, Boise, to discuss *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater.

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**Book Group (Sunday) - Zoom**  
by Valerie Steffen



The AAUW Zoomer Book Group will meet via Zoom 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. on February 9th. We will discuss *North Woods* by Daniel Mason. Aletha will facilitate our discussion. We welcome all interested participants to join the discussion. Please contact Valerie Steffen ([valerie@electric-logic.com](mailto:valerie@electric-logic.com)) NLT one week before the meeting to ensure you receive a Zoom link.

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**Book Group (Thursday)**  
by Linda Simmons



The Thursday AAUW Book Group will meet at 4:00 p.m. on February 13th at Elise deWit's home: 2092 E Feldspar Ct in Boise.

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**Bowling Group**  
by Karen Haven and Deborah Newton



The AAUW bowling group would like to invite everyone to come and get a little

exercise and have a good time. All levels of bowlers are welcome and it is definitely a judgement-free zone. We meet at Westy's in Garden City at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Upcoming dates February 10th and 24th.

A big thank you to all the bowlers who have helped put together an excellent basket to be raffled off at the April fundraising event. The basket is full of all kinds of fun travel stuff and travel necessities.

For more information, contact Karen or Deb:

- Deborah Newton [Deborahnewton59@gmail.com](mailto:Deborahnewton59@gmail.com)
- Karen Haven [Karihaven1952@gmail.com](mailto:Karihaven1952@gmail.com)

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**Day Trippers Group**  
by Marsha Bravo and Roberta Olson



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
**11:00 AM**  
**TOUR OF**  
**IDAHO BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM**  
**508 Julia Davis Dr, Boise**

The [Idaho Black History Museum \(IBHM\)](#) serves as a foundational pillar to the State of Idaho and the community it serves. This year marks the 100th year anniversary of the church that housed Idaho's first Black church and now houses the IBHM.

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**Happy Hour**  
by Kathy Scott and Amy Taivalkoski



After a hiatus brought on by Happy Hour chair Kathy Scott,



new Happy Hour co-chair Amy Taivalkoski prompted the return of monthly in-person Happy Hours!

The following dates have been chosen:

**February 5th:** [8 Horses Lounge](#), 199 N 8<sup>th</sup> St, Ste 50, Boise - 4:00-6:00pm

**March 3rd:** [Sockeye Alehouse on 36<sup>th</sup>](#), 3823 N Garden Center Way, Boise - 4:00-6:00pm

**April 8th:** Location Being Investigated

AAUW Boise Area Branch Happy Hours are not about drinking. They are about connecting, sharing stories, laughing and, if so inclined, having a drink and food. We hope you will join us. More details will be shared in future emails. We are hoping you will add these dates to your calendars.

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**Movie Group**  
by Marcella Embry and Gerrie Oehlschlager



Please join us on February 9th at The Flicks for the live-action and animated 2025 Oscar Nominated Short Films.

Please bring your donations for the theme basket "At the Movies" which will be auctioned at the April Fundraiser. Movie tickets have already been donated. Other possibilities include gourmet popcorn, movie candy, vintage movies on DVD, etc

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**Newcomers Group**  
by Ardele Hanson



Newcomers will meet on February 20th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The address is 386 E Fairbrook Drive in Boise. Julie Custer will be our guest. She will talk to us about the app [Directory Spot](#) (a password-protected online membership directory) and the [branch website](#). She is an expert, so if you have concerns or

questions please bring them with you!

If you are planning on attending, please send me (Ardele) a text at 208-308-0062. There is no need to respond if you are not able to come. Also, if you are coming, bring a little something to share and to drink! (Wine is always welcome!). I will have cups, plates, napkins, and any cutlery that will be required.

These are great meetings and a fun time to get to know not only new members but many attendees are long time members of AAUW. Come and enjoy a little happy hour before the time changes in March!

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## **BRANCH BOARD**

## **APPOINTED POSITIONS**

### **ELECTED OFFICERS**

#### **President**

Martha Lund

#### **President-Elect**

Sheila Robbins

#### **Co-Vice Presidents, Membership**

Sue Bolen and Beth Popish

#### **Co-Vice Presidents, Programs**

Amy Taivalkoski and Fran Voulelis

#### **Finance Officer**

Christie Bradley

#### **Finance Officer-Elect**

Tracy Bicknell-Holmes

#### **Secretary**

Jan Bracken

### **APPOINTED MEMBERS**

**501(c)(3) Compliance  
Administrator**

#### **Boise State Campus Food Pantry**

Kathy Scott

#### **Directory (DirectorySpot)**

Julie Custer

#### **Facebook**

Julie Custer

#### **Goodwill Ambassador**

Gerrie Oehlschlager

#### **Inez Robb Scholarship Committee Chair**

Nancy Otterness

#### **Membership Administrator**

Nancy Gray

#### **Menstrual Products**

Ashley Alloway

#### **Newsletter Editor**

David Scott

#### **Nominating Committee**

Gerti Arnold, Gail Kirkpatrick, and  
David Scott

#### **Ready Idaho Coalition**

Patty Underwood

Julie Custer

**Funds Chair**

Heidi Bogert

**Public Policy Chair**

Mary Ruckh

**Service Recognition Scholarship**

Leah Whiteman

**Special Events Coordinator**

Ann Lewis

**STEM Chair**

Deb Newton

**Web Editor**

Gail Kirkpatrick

**ZOOM Coordinator**

Kathy Scott

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**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS**

**Books, Mystery**

Linda Anderson

**Books, Sunday Afternoon**

Carolyn Lunstrum (in person)  
Valerie Steffen (Zoom)

**Books, Thursday Evening**

Linda Simmons

**Bowling**

Karen Haven and Deb Newton

**Bridge**

David Scott (Interim coordinator)

**Daytimers**

Marsha Bravo and Roberta Olson

**Great Decisions**

Mary Ruckh (in person)  
Kathy Scott (Zoom)

**Happy Hour**

Kathy Scott and Amy Taivalkoski

**Lobby Corps**

Mary Mosley and Mary Ruckh

**Mahjongg**

Sandy Merz

**Movies**

Marcy Embry and  
Gerrie Oehlschlager

**Needleworkers**

Donna Looze

**Newcomers**

Ardele Hanson

**Wine Tasting #1**

David Scott

**Wine Tasting #2**

Mike Camp and Elise deWit

**Wine Tasting #3**

Gail Kirkpatrick

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Questions or comments about the newsletter?  
Please send them to [aauwboise@hotmail.com](mailto:aauwboise@hotmail.com).

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