



AAUW Boise News and Events
March 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.

Welcome New Members

MARILYN HEMKER
BETH MALASKY

who joined our branch in February 2025.

President's Message
by Martha Lund



Greetings! February flew right by! Lobby Corps has been very busy this month advocating for our priorities—education, women’s health care, and right to vote. It’s been a very discouraging session so far, but we can only do what we can do. Please consider calling Governor Little’s office to encourage him to veto the voucher bill on his desk. He’s making it quite easy to do. **UPDATE: Governor Little signed [HB 93](#) on February 27, 2025.**

This is the month our scholarship recipients are chosen and they will be invited to our April Spring Fling. Speaking of the spring fling, thank you to everyone who has put such hard work into organizing it as well as all who have donated so far! It’s shaping up to be a very successful and fun fundraiser and I hope everyone can attend and bring a friend!

As you can see from this newsletter, our small groups are thriving! If you haven’t joined one, please consider doing so. It’s a great way to get to know people better and have a lot of fun. The new Indian Cooking Group is off to a great start! If anyone else has an idea for a small group, just let me know and we can get it going!

Hopefully I will see you all at our March meeting and, until then, try not to let these days stress you too much. Take solace in the work we do and the companionship we offer!

March Branch Meeting
by Amy Taivalkoski and Fran Voulelis



Homelessness has become an increasing problem in the United States. Why are so many people homeless? What is the demographic makeup of this population? Please join us for dinner on March 11th to learn more about [Corpus Commons](#), the only year-round daytime shelter in Boise, from its Executive Director Jessica Abbott.

The Corpus Christi House (as it was formally known) was founded in 2003, by the Catholic Workers organization as a hospitality day center that offered a comfortable place to sit, rest, read, or visit while providing the basic necessities for maintaining personal dignity. Their mission is to ease the burden of being homeless. They provide a place for people to get out of the weather, take a shower, wash their laundry, pick up mail, use the phone, eat, and be part of a

community. In 2024, the center was renamed [Corpus Commons](#) to symbolize that it is a shelter for people of all faiths and backgrounds. At our meeting we will learn what services they provide, who they serve, and the trends and challenges they face.

Membership News
by Sue Bolen and Beth Popish



With the April Spring Fling just around the corner, this would be a good time to be thinking of whom you might like to join you for this delightful evening. With a silent auction, wine wall drawing, appetizers, and entertainment included in the evening, the spring fundraiser is a perfect opportunity to introduce guests to our members and mission in a social setting. Time and again, we have found individuals who visit a meeting or event go on to join our cause once they experience for themselves the energy and camaraderie of our organization. So think about which friend, neighbor, colleague or acquaintance might need added purpose in their life. Could someone you know be AAUW's next valued member?

STEM News
by Deborah Newton



W.IN (Women Innovators) is a group of women in the Boise area who work to introduce young girls to STEM activities and careers. These volunteers “empower girls in Idaho by providing them with the skills and confidence needed to excel in STEaM fields. Through hands-on workshops, mentorship programs, and exposure to real-world career opportunities, W.IN helps these young women develop a strong foundation in STEaM disciplines.”

If you are looking for ways to get involved in STEM or STEaM events, this group would be happy to talk with you.

Lobby Corps Update
by Mary Mosley



January was a quiet month at the legislature, but they have made up for it in February.

Constitutional Convention Representative Redman is calling for a Constitutional convention ([HCR 10](#)).

Elections Several bills would make voting harder. Representative Alfieri's bill ([HB 139](#)) to require reasons for an absentee ballot died in committee by a tie vote. Senator Lenney's bill ([SB 1049](#)) would eliminate affidavits for voting.

Initiatives There are several bills to make initiatives harder to pass or to allow the Governor to veto them. So far, none has passed.

Libraries Representative Cornilles bill ([HB 209](#)) would allow mayors to fire library directors. Currently that is the job of the library board.

Representative Pickett's bill ([HB 212](#)) would make it harder to get up a petition to close a library district, as was done in Meridian 2 years ago. It would also make it harder to establish a library district, since it is the same process in the law.

License Plates Representative Moyle wants "an appeal to heaven" license plate ([HB 235](#)). The House Transportation Committee sent it to the House floor by a unanimous vote. Google it.

Sex Crimes Representative Raybould would make prostitution a felony. [HB 88](#) passed the House 50-19 and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Blaine Konzatti of the Idaho Family Policy Center, a Christian nationalist group, wants to make public drag shows illegal ([HB 230](#)).

Vouchers [HB 93](#) would provide tax money for private schools passed both houses. It does not meet the standards the Governor laid out in his State of the State speech. There is no accountability except for a satisfaction questionnaire parents will fill out each year. Teachers don't have to be certified and background checks are not required for employees. The public has no guarantee that the money will actually be spent on education. By the time you read this, the Governor will have either signed it, vetoed it, or let it become law without his signature. ***UPDATE: Governor Little signed HB 93 on February 27 - very disappointing.***

Women's Health Finally, a bill we can support. Representatives Green, Rubel

and Healey introduced a bill ([HB 134](#)) to increase insurance coverage of breast cancer screening for those at high risk. It passed the House 62-6. Here are the 6 who voted against it: Cayler, Harris, Hostetler, Marmon, Rasor, and Wisniewski. It is in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

Idaho Family Policy Center, headed by Blaine Conzatti, has introduced bills to require Bible reading and posting the Ten Commandments in schools. Most states do not want to admit that lobbyists write their bills, but Idaho has no such scruples, so they allow Conzatti to act as an unelected legislator and present bills in committee. So far neither of bills seem to be moving.

Senator Shippy wants the death penalty for women who have abortions. Representative Redman wants to make the drugs used in medical abortions controlled substances. Senator Toews proposes to give a tax credit for a fetus, and Senator Adams wants to give our tax money to fake clinics (crisis pregnancy centers), many of which are religious. Senator Nichols wants students to study fetal development ([SB 1046](#)) presumably so they will not seek abortions.

Only another month to go. We hope.

Book Group (Mystery)
by Linda Anderson



The Mystery Book Club will meet on Monday, March 10th at 6:00 pm at the home of Kay Reed, 3200 Agate Court. The book is *The Third Twin* by Ken Follett. Kay will lead the discussion. To be added to the list, please email Linda Anderson at s.linda.anderson@gmail.com.

Book Group (Sunday) - In Person
by Carolyn Lunstrum



The Sunday Afternoon In-Person book group will meet at 2:00 pm on March 16th at the Pioneer Federal Credit Union building, 2350 S. Broadway Ave., Boise, to discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon.

Book Group (Sunday) - Zoom
by Valerie Steffen



The AAUW Zoomer Book Group will meet via Zoom 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm on March 9th. We will discuss *The Pickup* by Nadine Gordimer. Valerie will facilitate our discussion. We welcome all interested participants to join the discussion. Please contact Valerie Steffen (valerie@electric-logic.com) by one week before the meeting to ensure you receive a Zoom link.

Book Group (Thursday)
by Linda Simmons



The Thursday AAUW Book Group will meet at 4:00 pm on March 13th at the Garden City Library. Barbara Abersold will lead the discussion of *The Last Call at the Nightingale* by Katharine Schellman.

Bowling Group
by Karen Haven and Deborah Newton



Just a reminder that the bowling group meets at 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month. We bowl at Westy's in Garden City and we have a great time (even when we bowl badly which sometimes happens). We are pleased to say that the bowling group is growing, but we are always happy to add new members.

Deborah Newton Deborahnewton59@gmail.com

Karen Haven Karihaven1952@gmail.com

Happy Hour by Kathy Scott and Amy Taivalkoski



Happy Hour: Monday, March 3rd!

Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Location: Sockeye Alehouse

3823 N Garden Center Way
Boise, ID 83703

There is lots of parking.

Advertisement: *"Welcome to the BEST HAPPY HOUR IN BOISE, where every sip and bite is a celebration! At Sockeye Brewing, we're redefining what it means to unwind after a long day. Join us Monday through Friday, 3pm -5pm [See NOTE Below] for unbeatable deals on your favorite drinks, delicious \$5 bites, and a lively atmosphere that's perfect for kicking back with friends."*

<https://www.sockeyebrew.com/happy-hour>

NOTE: Even though Sockeye's Happy Hour is from 3pm to 5pm, the Boise branch Happy Hour begins at 4pm to make it easier for members who may work to enjoy at least part of the branch Happy Hour with other members.

Instead of one large table we will sit at tables for 4-6 so when you come in just find our group and meet some new people.



Movie Group
by Marcella Embry and Gerrie
Oehlschlager



On March 8 at The Flicks, we will watch another of those 'don't let the title scare you off movies.

Winner of multiple awards, ***My Dead Friend Zoe*** is a drama and stark comedy about a returned female Afghanistan veteran engaged in a mysterious relationship with her dead best friend from the Army. She comes head to head with her Vietnam vet grandfather at the family's ancestral lake house.

“It is a story of friendship, sacrifice, grief, loss, and hope. It is a veteran’s story.” -Sonequa Martin-Green, main character

Needleworkers Group
by Donna Looze



If you want to learn to knit, sew, embroider, or crochet --- contact Donna Looze (donnalooze@gmail.com). Needleworkers members can assist you in these skills!

Newcomers Group
by Ardele Hanson



The Newcomers group will meet on March 20th at 4:00 pm. We will be meeting at Patty Underwood's home: 5167 N Northwall Ave. If you come, please bring a small appetizer to share and a beverage of your choice. Patty will have necessary plates, cutlery, glasses, and napkins.

There isn't a program set up for March but we will be discussing our year in review to see what people liked or didn't like, and how we can do better. It's a good, fun way to meet and get to know other members in AAUW as many of

the attendees are not Newcomers.

If you do plan on attending, please text me, Ardele, at 208-308-0062. It helps the host/hostess plan a bit if they are aware of a number. There is no need to text if you are not coming!

BRANCH BOARD

APPOINTED POSITIONS

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

Service Recognition Scholarship
Leah Whiteman

Special Events Coordinator
Ann Lewis

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

STEM Chair

Deb Newton

Web Editor

Gail Kirkpatrick

ZOOM Coordinator

Kathy Scott

APPOINTED MEMBERS

501(c)(3) Compliance

Administrator

Julie Custer

Funds Chair

Heidi Bogert

Public Policy Chair

Mary Ruckh

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS

Books, Mystery

Linda Anderson

Books, Sunday Afternoon

Indian Cooking

Valerie Steffen

Lobby Corps

Mary Mosley and Mary Ruckh

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

Mahjonn

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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Please send them to aauwboise@hotmail.com.

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