



AAUW Boise News and Events
December 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

**DONNA BARR
HELEN GREENWOOD
DANA HEATH
LINDA JENSEN**

who joined our branch in November 2025.

Co-Presidents' Message
by Martha Lund and Sheila Robbins



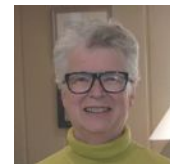
Happy holidays! I have returned from an almost 3-week tour of Vietnam and am ready to jump back in to co-presidential duties! Thank you, Sheila, for taking everything on while I was gone. It was a wonderful trip and I'm glad to be home.

This month is our annual Holiday Luncheon. We will be spreading holiday cheer with each other and by **donating solely** to the [Boise State Campus Food Pantry](#) this month. We also will again have shopping opportunities with the [Artisans For Hope](#) nonprofit. I hope you all will join us!

As the new year begins next month, the legislative session will also begin, so Lobby Corps will kick into gear. Please plan on attending our annual legislative kickoff sponsored by our state organization and organized by Mary Mosley, our state president. It will be January 10, 2026 beginning at 1:00pm at the United Presbyterian Church downtown. It can sometimes feel hopeless in this state's political environment to get legislation passed that benefit women, but we have had some successes every year, and we need to keep up the good work!

As I am still fuzzy-headed from jet lag I will keep this month's newsletter short. I hope to see you all soon!

AAUW Idaho Legislative Preview by Mary Mosley



AAUW Idaho Winter Board Meeting and Legislative Preview

January 10, 2026 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 950 W State St, Boise, Idaho

10:00 am - 11:30 am: Winter Board Meeting. All AAUW members are welcome.

11:30 am - 1:00 pm: Lunch on your own

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Legislative Preview and Discussion of Issues. All AAUW members and guests are welcome.

SPEAKERS



1:00 -1:30 pm: Whitney Bryen, journalist with Investigate West, will speak about her series “Guarded by Predators,” on abuse of women in Idaho’s prisons. Idaho has the highest number of incarcerated women per capita in the US. She will give us ideas about how we might take action to make change. You can read her reports here: <https://www.investigatwest.org/guarded-by-predators/>



1:30 - 2:00 pm: Huda Shaltry, branch manager of Hillcrest Library, will speak about the latest developments in book banning and how libraries are coping with [HB 710](#), passed in 2024 to keep “harmful materials” from minors in libraries.

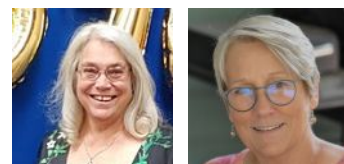


2:00 - 2:30 pm: Melanie Folwell, Executive Director of Idahoans United for Women and Families, will speak about their initiative to restore access to abortion and how we can help. More information here: <https://iduwf.org/about>.

2:30 - 3:30 pm: Representatives from the groups who spoke at our June meeting will speak about what their organizations are planning for the upcoming legislative session and beyond.

- Chris Parri, Idaho Education Association
- Cindy Wilson, Mormon Women for Ethical Government
- Jean Hensheid, League of Women Voters
- Dee Childers, Sandy Thregarten, SW Idaho National Organization for Women

How to Stay Informed
by Sue Bolen and Ardele Hanson



The AAUW Boise Area Branch website (boise-id.aauw.net) contains a wealth of

information regarding our branch's activities, upcoming meetings, and all sorts of interesting information. In addition, the website also includes a MEMBERS ONLY page, where you will find a list of current branch membership information, including instructions on how to access our online directory known as [DirectorySpot](#), calendars and newsletters. In addition, you can access minutes from past board and branch meetings, branch budgets and other financial information required as a 501(c)(3). To protect the privacy of our members, the MEMBERS ONLY section is password-protected and changed at the beginning of each fiscal year. If you need the password, please send your request to aauwboise@gmail.com. The next time you have some time, we hope you will take a few minutes to become familiar with our website to stay current. Don't forget to mention the site when visiting with potential members who would like more information about AAUW.

A huge shout out and thank you to Amy Taivalkoski and Gail Kirkpatrick for updating our page and making it so much more accessible and attractive. Whether you have been a frequent visitor or have never checked it out before, please do so now. You'll like what you see

2026 Spring Gala
by Heidi Bogert



Mark your calendars - the AAUW Boise Area Branch Gala is set for April 17, 2026!

Come participate and help us raise more money for scholarships! Over the next few weeks we will be planning new ideas for the wine wall, silent and live auctions. Larry LaRocco will be joining us to be the auctioneer (his daughter received an AAUW scholarship for college).

For the wine wall - we are doing things differently. We will have \$30 bottles of wine to raffle - 3 tickets per bottle for \$20. We will also have \$50 bottles of wine - 2 tickets for \$40.

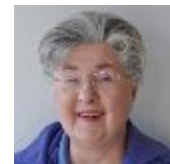
Please invite your friends to our annual Gala!

Book Group (Mystery)
by Linda Anderson



The Mystery Book Club will meet on Saturday, December 6, at 11:30 a.m., for a holiday brunch at the home Marian Hendrix, 6260 N. San Vito Lane (Cadence at Bainbridge). **NOTE: The gate code will be noted on the branch calendar you receive on December 1, 2025.** The book is Silent Night by Mary Higgins Clark. Kay Reed is the discussion leader.

Book Group (Sunday) - In Person
by Carolyn Lunstrum



The Sunday afternoon in-person book group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 21, at the Pioneer Federal Credit Union building, 2350 S. Broadway Avenue, Boise, to discuss "American Ramble" by Neil King.

The group will meet again on Sunday, January 18, to discuss "The Rose Code" by Kate Quinn.

Book Group (Sunday) - Zoom
by Valerie Steffen



The AAUW Zoomer Book Group will meet via Zoom 2:00pm – 3:30pm on December 14. We will discuss A Psalm for the Well built, (Chambers, Becky). Valerie (placeholder) 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 on December 11 at 4 pm at the home of Linda Simmons, 11535 Wildrose Court. Linda will facilitate discussion of THE BRIAR CLUB by Kate Quinn.

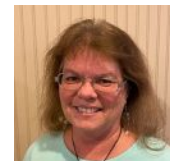
Day Trippers
by Marsha Bravo and Stacy Urban



Day Trippers has an event scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 10:00 am at the [Boise Art Museum](#). All are invited! You don't have to be a member of Day Trippers to attend. This is a docent-led tour of the exhibit [The Last Supper by Julie Green](#). No cost if we have at least 15 people for the tour. Please contact Elaine Daly, event organizer (208-602-9963, dalyelm@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

You can contact [Stacy Urban](#) or [Marsha Bravo](#) if you have an event you'd like to organize for Day Trippers!

Movie Group
by Marcella Embry



December Movie Group will meet at Flicks on December 14. It is too early to know which movies will be available on that date, so watch for an update email.

Newcomers Group
by Ardele Hanson



Newcomers will meet on December 18th at 4 PM. We will meet at my house: 386 E Fairbrook Dr. This meeting will be a white elephant Christmas gift exchange!

If you are coming, please bring a gift - between \$15.00 and \$20.00 - to exchange; also, a small appetizer to share and something to drink. I'll have plates, glasses, napkins, and any cutlery that may be required. There will be plenty of time to talk and get to know other members. Please RSVP me by calling or texting 208-308-0062 if you are going to come.

Public Policy Interest Group
by Linda Beebe



The beginning of the year and the legislature are just around the corner!

Idaho Women in Action will have legislative training sessions on **January 17, 31 and February 7 from 10am to noon**. All sessions are the same.

Registration information will come out in December. These sessions are very informative on the workings of the legislature and we encourage people to attend.

The focus for the AAUW Boise Area Branch in public policy and AAUW Idaho Lobby Corps are these three key issues:

1. **Education**
2. **Health care/ Reproductive Freedom**
3. **Citizens Initiatives/ Voter Rights**

We have point people for these issues who will help Lobby Corps follow bills and keep members updated, but they could use some other people to help follow bills. If you are interested in helping as a support person for any of the three issues, please contact:

Mary Mosley: mmosley@tranquility.net

Linda Beebe: velobb.linda@gmail.com

BRANCH BOARD

APPOINTED POSITIONS

ELECTED OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

Martha Lund and Sheila Robbins

President-Elect

Sally Stone

Co-Vice Presidents, Membership

Sue Bolen and Ardele Hanson

Co-Vice Presidents, Programs

Amy Taivalkoski and Laura Tirrell

Finance Officer

Christie Bradley

Finance Officer-Elect

Debbie Johnson

Secretary

Amie Bruggeman

APPOINTED MEMBERS

501(c)(3) Compliance

Administrator

Julie Custer

Funds Chair

Heidi Bogert

Public Policy Chair

Vacant

Boise State Campus Food Pantry
Kathy Scott

Directory (DirectorySpot)
Julie Custer

Facebook
Mary Mosley

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
Pat Alpine, Gail Kirkpatrick, and
Marci Lingo

Ready Idaho Coalition
Patty Underwood

Service Recognition Scholarship
Leah Whiteman

Special Events Coordinator
Ann Lewis

STEM Co-Chairs
Gayle Carrier and Deb Newton

Web Editor
Gail Kirkpatrick

ZOOM Coordinator
Kathy Scott



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

Day Trippers

Marsha Bravo and Stacy Urban

Great Decisions

Mary Ruckh (in person)

Kathy Scott (Zoom)

Happy Hour

Kathy Scott and Amy Taivalkoski

Lobby Corps

Mary Mosley

Mahjongg

Sandy Merz

Movies

Marcy Embry

Needleworkers

Donna Looze

Newcomers

Ardele Hanson

Public Policy

Linda Beebe

Wine Tasting #1

David Scott

Wine Tasting #2

Mike Camp and Elise deWit

Wine Tasting #3

Gail Kirkpatrick

Wine Tasting #4

Coordinator TBD

Questions or comments about the newsletter?

Please send them to aauwboise@hotmail.com.

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