



**Message from the President**

**Dear AAUW Maine Members,**

I hope that you are all faring well in our current reality! Like all of you, the Board is deeply concerned about the spread and impact of COVID-19 on the nation and individuals. The situation is constantly evolving, and, out of an abundance of caution, the Board has made the difficult decision to **cancel our 2020 State Convention in May.**

We'll be using the planned program (education) for next year's Convention (which has been **rescheduled for April 30 - May 1, 2021**). Waterville will once again have the opportunity to host, hopefully at Educare.

We are obligated to have an annual meeting, to approve last year's minutes, approve the budget, and elect new Board members. This will be done electronically, via Google Forms. More information will be out on this in the next few weeks.

Please stay safe and healthy – we hope to see all of you soon!

Yours in Joyful Defiance and Radical Optimism  
Carly McCarthy  
President, AAUW of Maine

P.S. Congratulations to the Waterville branch for earning a star for Advancement in the Five Star Recognition Program!



\*\*\*\*\*

**And More from President Carly McCarthy**

**Nominating Committee**

The Maine State Board is looking to fill several positions in our upcoming digital election. The available positions are:

- President (as we have had no president-elect for the past year)
- Membership Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Treasurer

We **NEED** to fill these positions. I urge each of you to speak to your membership and have them consider taking up a Board seat. If you have any questions about any of the positions, please contact me at 207.286.7985 or [carly.r.mccarthy@gmail.com](mailto:carly.r.mccarthy@gmail.com).

\*\*\*\*\*



***Out of an abundance of caution we have postponed the Maine Women's Hall Of Fame induction ceremony***

***Please join us Saturday, October 17th when we will honor Joanne D'Arcangelo and Betty-Jane Stanhope Meader***

***Saturday, October 17th***

***1:00 p.m. Registration and Silver Tea at the Gallery***

***2:00 p.m. Induction Ceremony in Jewett Auditorium\****

***The University Of Maine at Augusta  
46 University Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330***

\*Note new and larger venue.

**Campus Map**

\*\*\*\*\*

**AAUW of Maine 2020  
Achievement Citation Award**  
By Debbie Melvin, Committee Chair

Thank you to the branches that submitted nominees for the AAUW of Maine 2020 Achievement Citation Award. The Executive Board will discuss options for next year's award.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Suffrage Centennial Collaborative**  
Message from Ellen Alderman, Chair



Thousands of daffodils are starting to bloom all around Maine in honor of the Suffrage Centennial, and they couldn't be more timely.

The Suffrage blooms are living symbols of resilience and renewal, important reminders to vote during a historically challenging election, and even offer a welcome diversion on the daily walks that have become a pandemic ritual for so many.

And please remember to snap photos of the blooms you find and post them to Instagram, tagging @mainesuffragecentennial and using #unitedwebloom. We can't wait to connect with you through the photos!

Now more than ever, **UNITED WE BLOOM.**

\*\*\*\*\*



In addition to preparing Betty-Jane's nomination to the Maine Women's Hall of Fame in 2019, Judy Dinmore (Bath-Brunswick Branch) was lead author for the Op Ed, ***Maine Suffrage Centennial: The work that's unfinished after a century of voting.***



It appeared in the **Insight** section of the January 26, 2020 issue of the **Maine Sunday Telegram**:  
<https://www.pressherald.com/2020/01/26/maine-suffrage-centennial-the-work-thats-unfinished-after-a-century-of-voting/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Promoting Diversity**  
By D&I Chair Betty-Jane Meader

Because of the pandemic crisis, the events I intended to share with you in the *Dawnbreaker* have been canceled; however, I would like to recommend two powerful films. "The Cave" (2019) is a documentary about a female doctor who "operates a makeshift hospital nicknamed 'the Cave' during the Syrian Civil War." The other is a short film (2015) called "Syrian Refugees: A Human Crisis Revealed." It "captures the story of Syrian people seeking safety and those who come to their aid."

In March, the Waterville Branch had invited Dina Yacoubagha, originally from Syria, to share her challenges, opportunities and rewards as a Muslim immigrant woman living in Maine. She is a member of the Islamic Center of Maine. The program has been postponed until September. Another group promoting the diversity in the Bangor area is the Maine Multicultural Center (MMCC), which formed three years ago. In a letter to the editor in the *Bangor Daily News*, Vicki L. Rusbult, president of MMCC, commended the school system for hosting diversity panels at Bangor High School in January.

\*\*\*\*\*

**More Announcements from  
President Carly McCarthy**

**AAUW National Election**

The time has come once again to make your voice heard and vote in AAUW's National Election! This year, we're voting on four candidates to join our 15-person board of directors.

You can read more about the candidates and the election on the National Election page of the website.  
[www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/](http://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/).

**Your Member ID and Voter Pin were provided to you via email on April 8.**

If you require a paper ballot, you may request one from [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) by April 17. Paper ballots must be postmarked by May 1. Online ballots must be cast by 6pm EDT on May 18.

**AAUW Group Exemption Season Opens for IRS Tax Filing**

All AAUW-affiliated entities must file a tax return with the IRS each year. If your annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less, you can file Form 990-N. AAUW can also do this on your behalf if you complete the group exemption form in the Member Services Database, which is available beginning April 16. IRS regulations state that automatic revocation of federal tax-exempt status occurs when an exempt organization fails to file Form 990-N for three consecutive years. **Please provide your information to ensure your Form 990-N is filed in a timely manner.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Tips for Saving AAUW History at the Branch Level**

By Betsy Eggleston, AAUW State Historian

Current events over the past year and into the future will provide much information for historians, particularly in women's issues. It is important now for AAUW of Maine branches to archive their members, their activities and documents.

Here is a partial list of branch archiving guidelines, which I have given before.

- Schedule of the branch activities for the year
- List of officers for the year
- Secretarial Minutes
- Financial Records
- Annual Reports
- Branch Publications
- Important activities, including publicity.

If branches do not have an archiving location, please locate one.

Any questions or suggestions, please email Betsy Eggleston [Eggleston62@gmail.com](mailto:Eggleston62@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Branching Out: News from Our Branches**

**Aroostook Branch**

By Carol Pierson, Branch Secretary

Because of the challenging travel conditions in northern Maine during the winter months, the Aroostook Branch of AAUW meets from April through October. Due to the current virus outbreak, we had our first meeting on April 2 on ZOOM, where we were treated to a program, *A Pilgrimage on the Camino Trails*, presented by Jenny Radsma. It was really fun using the technology. I have included a photo of those of us who were able to attend - some from as far away as Georgia, Colorado and Arizona! We plan on using this technology for future meetings when we cannot meet in person.



In May, we will have a presentation by one of the board members about the goals of a group called *Mainely Girls*. Polly Earl will be our presenter in June, where she will give us information about the guardianship process. One of our best-attended events of the year will take place in July, where members and guests each describe a recently read book.

In August, we will meet at the Area Agency on Aging where the topic of the presentation will be Elder Abuse Institute's advocacy program. Scholarship recipients of the MSSM STEM summer camp scholarships will be our guests when they give us information about the camps they attended.

Dr. Jason Johnston will be our speaker in October at UMPI when he will talk about sustainable agriculture.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Bath-Brunswick Branch**

By Sophie Whitehouse, Branch Secretary and Communications

Our branch finished 2019 with our annual Greens Event/Holiday Party at the Curtis Library in Brunswick. We raised close to \$2,000 at that event for AAUW funds and scholarship.

We started 2020 with a luncheon at Henry and Marty Restaurant, Brunswick. Our keynote speaker for the event was Cathi Belcher, from Bowdoin College and formerly with the Tea with Harriet program. Cathi spoke to us about Harriet Beecher Stowe and her time in Brunswick when she wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Although the house where Beecher Stowe lived does not host Harriet's Teas any longer, there are still many events around town that celebrate the author and her famous novel.

March and April meetings were cancelled.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Hancock County Branch**

By Betsy Eggleston, Liaison

The Hancock County Branch began its program year with a luncheon in Blue Hill. This was followed by a talk by Jan Crofoot about her informative travels to the Azores during the summer of 2019 and the woes on her return trip.

Our October meeting started with a delicious potluck at the home of an Ellsworth member. After a short meeting, Judy Bragg talked about her extensive collection of native baskets from the native tribes of Maine and the creators of this craft.

There was no November meeting, but in December we enjoyed pizza and salads, followed by our annual cookie exchange while enjoying the holiday decorations in our member's home.

No January meeting, but our February activity was our annual food from some nation outside the USA. This year we enjoyed Chinese food made by our members. Our spouses enjoyed this good time with us.

Before the stay-at-home order was announced, we had our joint meeting at the Moore Community Center with Business and Professional Women and Delta Kappa Gama. This included a potluck meal and then Bill Fogle and Linda Grindle of the Ellsworth Historical Society

showed slides and talked about the upcoming Maine Bicentennial Celebration in Ellsworth on the weekend of March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Penobscot Valley Branch**

By Janet Givens, Liaison

A panel of excellent speakers provided the program for our March meeting, "Supporting Diverse Women's Life Experiences," held at the Margaret Chase Smith Center at the University of Maine. We opened the meeting to the public and attendance was good. Andrea Mercado, Mary Cathcart, Susan Landry, and Judi Coburn Harris planned the provocative and informative meeting.

Paige Mitchell of the University of Maine English department spoke on her work with incarcerated women, as well as her doctoral dissertation on women and self actualization.

Courtesy of Andrea Mercado



At the March 7th event for the "Supporting Diverse Women" panel put on by the Penobscot Valley Branch. Susan Landry, Cheryl Golek, Andrea Mercado, Dr. Catalina Piedrahita, Paige Mitchell, and Mary Cathcart.

Catalinha Piedrahita, M.D., a former medical doctor in Colombia, shared her experiences with various types of trafficking seen through her work with Preble Street Anti-Trafficking Services (ATS) in Bangor, where she is a case manager. She explained how difficult it is to help men and women migrant workers who are afraid to expose their contractors.

Cheryl Golek, who operates The Vicarage in Harpswell, Maine, which offers an "open door" policy for those in need of care for dementia and other physical and mental

disabilities, helps to create a personalized plan for each individual in her care. She personalizes a diet plan and is a certified medication aide. Cheryl also shared experiences from her early life in poverty, which were of great interest to the group.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Waterville Branch**

By Martha Arterberry, President

In February, we had a program on writing letters to the editor. Bets Brown introduced us to the components of a good letter, and then we drafted letters focusing on the gender pay gap using AAUW's 2019 update (<https://www.aauw.org/research/the-simple-truth-about-the-gender-pay-gap/>).



One group focused on supporting companies that have gender pay equality, and the letter appeared in the *Morning Sentinel* on March 6. You can see it here: <https://www.centralmaine.com/2020/03/06/reward-companies-that-close-pay-gap/>

We also continued our Pizza and Politics gatherings. We decided to meet at homes and have the pizza delivered because it is easier to have a group conversation than in a noisy pizza parlor. Our latest event was watching the election returns on Super Tuesday.

The State Convention is rescheduled for April 30 - May 1, 2021 and we are hoping to have the same programming.

\*\*\*\*\*

Kristin Sweeney, Editor ([sweeneykg@gmail.com](mailto:sweeneykg@gmail.com))

# IMPORTANT DATES

- March 13, 2020 **Girls' Day at the Statehouse CANCELLED**



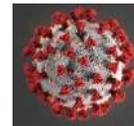
- March 21, 2020 **Maine Women's Hall of Fame Reception and Ceremony RESCHEDULED**



- **April 8–May 18 2020 AAUW Elections**
- May 1- 2, 2020 **AAUW Maine State Convention CANCELLED**



- May 7, 2020 **Maine Women's Fund Leadership Luncheon, Portland RESCHEDULED**



- May 27-30, 2020 **AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) POSTPONED**
- May 28 – June 2, 2020 **Maine NEW Leadership CANCELLED**



- October 17, 2020 **Maine Women's Hall of Fame Reception and Ceremony University of Maine Augusta**
- October 30, 2020 **Maine Women's Fund Leadership Luncheon, Portland**
- April 30 – May 1, 2021 **AAUW Maine State Convention Waterville**

\*\*\*\*\*

**AAUW of Maine  
FY 2021 Proposed Budget**

**Revenue**

Dues	2,000.00
State Meetings	2,400.00 **
Fundraising - campaign	0.00
AAUW Funds (basket raffle)	400.00
Total Revenue	<u>4,800.00</u>
From cash on hand	<u>2,125.00</u>
	<u><u>6,925.00</u></u>

See Note

\*\* Increased for a state meeting to be held Fall 2020 and another state meeting to be held Spring 2021.

**Expenses**

**Officers and Committees**

President	200.00
Board Officers/Committees	100.00
Public Policy	100.00
Achievement Citation	0.00

**State Meetings** 4,500.00 \*\*

See Note

**AAUW Funds** 400.00

**Miscellaneous**

Invite an Expert	250.00
Sponsorships	800.00
Gifts/Flowers	100.00
Insurance (Director/Officers)	150.00
Outreach/Tabling Events	250.00

**Travel**

\*\* National Convention 0.00

**Communications**

Dawnbreaker	25.00
Directory/Annual Report	25.00
Web site	0.00
Postage	25.00

Total Budgeted Expenses 6,925.00

**Board Officers/Committees** include President Elect, Program VP, Membership VP, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Bylaws, College Relations, AAUW Funds, Historian, Nominating, Diversity

State Meetings: primarily the State Convention; includes facility rental costs, meals, event insurance and gifts

**Sponsorships** include: Maine Women's Lobby, Maine Women's Policy Center, and Maine NEW Leadership

**\*\* National Convention - no funds budgeted in 2021**