



South Shore Area (MA) Branch

NEWS OF NOTE

May 2020

Annual Celebration Dinner

May

Comm. Room, 97 Willard Street, Quincy

Canceled

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well my thoughts in the April NON about being back to normal by the May dinner are not going to happen. Therefore, Sheila and I made the decision to cancel the May 12 Annual Celebration Dinner. It would have been wonderful to get together but it is not meant to be at this time. We can hope that maybe sometime during the summer we can gather for a Beach Day, Dinner, or even a meeting as long as we stay 6 feet apart!

Since this is typically our last gathering it occurred to me that we needed to think about the 2020-2021 year for AAUW. The first item was a Board.

I have agreed to continue as President for another year, unless there is someone out there who would like to take over, or even share the position with me! (Needless to say when I signed on for this position two years ago I never expected that this would be such an unusual year. From the start at Pot Luck, remembering Deanne, to having to cancel the last two meetings of the year, not due to weather but due to a "virus".)

Most of the current members of our Board have agreed to continue in their positions for another year. We do need a VP for Program so if anyone would like to step up, or even just have further information on what is involved, please contact me. The program for this past year came together nicely as the entire board came up with ideas and followed through to set them up. But it would be good to have one person to coordinate the programs.

Please continue to submit your dues for the 2020-2021 year with South Shore AAUW to Sandy or through the AAUW Membership Data Base.

I am looking forward to planning another great year of programs with the Board and hoping that by September, when all of the activities that usually happen in the spring (such as the Boston Marathon) will also enable us to open our year with our Annual Pot Luck Supper.

Stay Healthy and Safe in this unusual and isolating time. Write letters, emails and stay in touch by phone.

[Ginny Giordano](#)
President

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW's Delivers an Excellent Webinar "2020 Election Voter Access and Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic"

[PM: I've summarized below the key elements of what we need to know, think about, and do to support safe and secure voting in 2020.]

Absentee Ballot vs Vote-by-Mail

Absentee voting: where a voter requests a ballot be sent – traditionally an excuse/reason is required

- 17 states still require justification for absentee voting

No-excuse absentee voting: no justification necessary

- 33 states and DC have No-excuse absentee voting

Vote-by-mail [VBM]: the automatic process of sending all voters ballots

- 5 states practice VBM. Generally polling places are still open

All-mail: states which eliminated in-person voting and now have voting by mail only

- Hawaii, Alaska, and Wyoming

Key challenges are: correct mailing addresses and internet access for voters.

Make a Phone Call to States

Call:

Secretary of State
Board of Elections
Governor

Remind them, if it's the case, that you are a CONSTITUENT.

Plan a script such as:

I'm calling to find out how the next election will be conducted. As a constituent, I am concerned that these elections will be conducted safely and accessibly. What is our state doing about voter access during the public health crisis?

KNOW YOUR STATE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

Currently, for Massachusetts, the Secretary of State's website says:

Under the Massachusetts Constitution, absentee ballots are available for all elections to voters who are disabled, out of town on Election Day, or have a religious belief preventing them from voting at their polling place.

A new law has been passed clarifying that any person taking precaution related to COVID-19 in response to a declared state of emergency or from guidance from a medical professional, local or state health official, or any civil authority shall be deemed to be unable by reason of physical disability to cast their vote in person at a polling location.

It is the opinion of this office that you qualify for an absentee ballot due to physical disability if:

- *You are ill;*
- *You are confined to your home because you may transmit infection; or*
- *You cannot leave your home because you are a member of a population vulnerable to illness;*

- *You are staying in your home or avoiding your polling place as a precautionary measure in response to COVID-19.*

[Here is the link to the MA Secretary of State's info.](#) Please check for updates.

Consider whether – in the case of our state of Massachusetts – we think this change is sufficient. Perhaps you'd like to promote vote-by-mail VBM where all voters are automatically sent ballots or even All-Mail where voting is by mail only.

The Importance of GOTV [Get Out the Vote]

VOTER REGISTRATION

Register and motivate voters

Targeted and personal connections work best – and in the past in-person methods were prioritized: eg., door-to-door, tables at markets, as well as phone calls, social media etc.

NOW we can still:

- phone or text bank – and we can do it together virtually
- do postcard and letter campaigns and help the Post Office out, too!
- conduct social media activities....

When communicating with prospective voters:

- Find out if they're registered – and show them how to find out [[Here is link for Am I REGISTERED TO VOTE in Massachusetts?](#)]
- Make sure they know where their polling place is and ensure they know how to get there
- Try to get them to commit to voting on the day (activists swear by the efficacy of getting a commitment)

Efforts to GET OUT THE VOTE are more important this year than ever!!!!

AAUW has prepared a **2020 Voter Issue Guide** which will be on the website soon.

I will follow up with more information in the coming weeks.

Patrice Metro
Public Policy Chair

DUES BILL



Your dues bill for 2020-2021 is attached to this newsletter. The deadline for paying your dues is **June 1, 2020**. Please pay your dues as soon as possible by downloading the attached form and mailing it along with your check to Sandy Carle or login to aauw.org to use the Membership Services Database to pay your dues online.

Sandy Carle
Treasurer

Editor's Note: Since the AAUW website has changed dramatically I thought I would walk you through how to pay your dues online. Use the link aauw.org. Once on the site you will see on the far right top corner **Membership**. Click on it. It will bring you to the Membership page. You will see a list of links on the right-hand side of the page beginning with Support AAUW. Click on the 5th one down, **Membership Services Database**. It will bring you to the **Access Membership Services Database** with a link to enter. At the point you will have to logon so if you are registered and know your password you will be all set. If you don't remember your Membership ID or password, it will get you there. I suggest once you have your ID# and password you select *keep me signed in*. It is much easier than having to find your membership ID every time. Once you are logged in, click on the box **Enter Member Services Database**. Once in the MSD, you will see your contact information. On the left-hand side there is a link **Renew My Membership**. It is personalized just for you. Don't let the length of these directions scare you. If you follow them, you will see how easy it is to pay your dues online.

AAUW OF MASSACHUSETTS ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

From: Stacy Fatale, Administrator/President
To: Members
Date: June 14, 2020
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Where: Video Conference and Meeting Space TBA

Priorities have shifted for all as Massachusetts battles COVID-19.

To stay on track with AAUW of Massachusetts Bylaws, however, we need to have our Annual Meeting.

We have made a request for a physical meeting space. However, it is more likely that the meeting will be delivered via video conferencing.

If a face-to-face meeting is feasible and safe on June 14, then there will be an option to choose in-person or video conferencing participation.

The following actions are being pursued in advance of the meeting:

- Gathering our Nominating Committee
- Recruiting for State Board roles and nominating candidates
- Reviewing Bylaws and Governance
- Pursuing Branch Reports and Membership Status Reports

Thank you for your interest and commitment to AAUW of Massachusetts. Your interest in assisting with or leading in these efforts is greatly appreciated.



[Stacy Fatale](#)
President/Administrator

BASKETS FOR MOTHER'S DAY



Happy Spring!!!!

Hoping that everyone is safe, sane and healthy! If you are like me, cabin fever is getting pretty stressful! And we need some nice spring-like weather to cheer us all up!

Thinking of spring and Mother's Day, and of our inability to get out and shop for gifts, I thought some people might be interested in purchasing our baskets for a Mother's Day/Happy Spring present. Or maybe to show appreciation for some acts of kindness during this difficult time.

I have about 30 pine-needle baskets that are available for sale. People could order them via my email address, and if they are local, I'd deliver to their home, or I could send them via USPS with a card from Honduras Hope. The purpose would be two-fold....to brighten up someone's day, and to support the efforts of Honduras Hope. Our community in Honduras is suffering due to the tragedy of Coronavirus. Although they live in an isolated part of the country, all stores, businesses and commerce have been suspended. Our people are more afraid of dying from hunger than from the virus. We are providing food relief now, but are uncertain how much longer they will need our support, and how much

longer we will be able to provide funding for the emergency food. By purchasing the baskets, you would be helping us buy food for our community.

I am asking if AAUW members could help us in our efforts by buying a basket or sending a donation. Anyone who is interested can reach me at this email address: sraswanson@yahoo.com, or at my cell: 781 956 1747.

I have included a picture with a sampling of the pine-needle baskets that are available. All baskets are \$20.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Kathy Swanson
Honduras Hope Volunteer

BRANCH CALENDAR You will find our monthly branch calendar on the last page of this newsletter. It is on a separate page so that you can print it or transfer the dates to your personal calendar. All events on the calendar are open to all members but as a courtesy please inform the hostess if you are attending. You can find their contact information in your branch directory. Our monthly branch programs are free and open to the public.



*Stay safe and healthy
until we meet again!*

Articles for publication in the South Shore Area branch newsletter, **News of Note**, should reach the editor, Hollie Bagley (holliebagley@gmail.com) by the 20th day of the previous month.

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 May Day	2
3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Deadline for AAUW voting	19 Book Discussion	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30

- May 18 6 pm deadline for online voting for AAUW 2020 national election.
- May 19 Book discussion of *The Rainbow Comes and Goes* by Anderson Cooper, 6:30 pm, if in person, home of Gail Saccone, Braintree, more likely by Zoom. Contact [Patrice Metro](#) for link to Zoom.
- June Branch Board meeting, date and location to be determined.
- June 14 AAUW-MA Annual Meeting, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Video Conference and Meeting Space TBA
- June 16 Book discussion of *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict, 6:30 pm, if in person, home of Jane Street, Hingham, otherwise by Zoom. Contact [Patrice Metro](#) for link to Zoom.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Visit our branch web page:

<http://aauw-ma.aauw.net/branches/southshorearea/>

Like and contribute to our branch Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWSouthShoreAreaMassachusetts/>