



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

News of Note

March 2021

Branch Program Degree or No Degree? That is the Question March 9, 2021 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

AAUW has undergone many changes since it was founded in 1881 in Boston, but one thing remains constant—our mission to promote equity for women and girls. Some changes have been major and some minor depending on how you look at them.

We have gone from voting by delegate to each of us having a vote. We have voted to admit men as members and changed the degree requirement to include those with associate degrees. We are changing our branding from American Association of University Women to AAUW. Our national structure has changed and we now have a CEO.



Now we are being asked to change once again. Beginning in April we will vote on whether or not to remove the degree requirement. As you know, the national board is in favor of lifting the requirement citing it is the equitable thing to do. This request has been brought to the

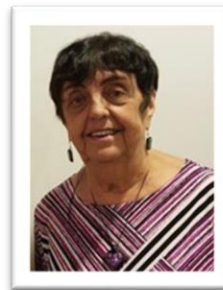
membership several times and it has been voted down. This is 2021. Is it time for this to pass? Is it time to change? Will AAUW be the same organization or a better organization without the degree requirement?

Our March 9 meeting will be held town hall style so that each of us will have a chance to express our opinion, to respectfully listen to our fellow members, and to come away from the meeting with a more informed decision as to how we will vote. Plan to attend via Zoom on March 9

at 7pm. We need to hear from each and every one of you, be you for, against, or undecided.

If you have not yet used Zoom, you may want to use the link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>) for a simple tutorial. Zoom phobic? Choose to join us by telephone. The information to join the meeting will be sent out closer to the date.

[Hollie Bagley](#)
Program Chair



President's Message

I want to thank Gail Saccone for arranging our excellent February meeting on Fraud and Scams. As we were awaiting this meeting one of our own members was being “hacked”. So being aware of these unsavory people who try to scam us

is really important in this day and age.

Here we go again on the VOTING issue! That has been a consistent topic this year. Although we are talking about a much smaller scale, issues dealing with AAUW, the concepts are the same. AAUW is a Democracy which entitles all of us members to a vote when change is anticipated. As you see from Hollie’s article, this topic of changing membership requirements is not new. It has come up periodically over the years. In the past only members who attended the biannual convention in June were able to vote as they thought or, if a delegate, how their branch wanted them to vote on this issue of changing the requirements to become a member of AAUW. Just as we did in October when we were discussing voting for President of the United States, although maybe not as life changing, your leaders want you to make an informed decision and PARTICIPATE. For many people, it is even

easier than voting for president of the US since it can be done online.

VOTE



To help you, our March Branch meeting will give you the opportunity to hear the pros and cons and encourage you to vote

what you feel is best for the organization. Please participate in our Tuesday, March 9 branch meeting to ask, and hopefully get answers, to your questions and then be sure to vote, either online or by mail, between April 7 and May 17, to express your preference for how admission to membership in AAUW should be decided.

And as a preview for April, I have finally been able to contact NSRWA (North and South River Watershed Association). You may recall they were scheduled to do our April Meeting last year and then “life shut down” due to Covid. They are planning to present a program for our April 13 branch meeting so let us hope that this April is somewhat back to normal! (We will still be on Zoom!)

[Ginny Giordano](#)
President



Membership Matters

AAUW is a community of more than 170,000 people standing strong for gender equality. Your membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women. It will help close the gender gap by 2030, ensure schools and workplaces are free of discrimination and harassment and create more opportunities for women to lead.

[Anne Foley](#)
Membership Co-Chair



Public Policy

In letter to Congress, AAUW supports and urges the passing of the FAMILY Act.

February 11, 2021

AAUW urges Congress “to support and advocate for swift passage of the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act. Introduced on the anniversary of the signing of the Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) Act of 1993, the FAMILY Act would create a permanent national family and medical leave insurance program to help ensure that people who work can take the time they need to address serious health and caregiving needs. It

would help support working families’ economic security, promote racial and gender equity, create a more level playing field for businesses of all sizes and strengthen our economy.”



“Today, only 60 percent of working women have some access to paid sick days and women with less education and lower wages tend to have the least access to paid leave.¹ Working mothers without a college degree are often less likely to have access to paid leave² and are also more likely to be let go from their job or to quit during pregnancy or shortly after childbirth.³ Nearly 40 percent of mothers say they are solely responsible for staying home from work with sick children, compared with only three percent of fathers...”⁴

Read the letter here:

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/02/FAMILY-Act-Letter-to-Congress-02.11.21-FINAL.pdf>

AAUW, in a letter to Congress, supports passage of the Raise the Wage Act of 2021.

February 10, 2021

“Today, millions of women live in poverty because our federal minimum wage is inadequate for ensuring the economic well-being of workers and their families. The federal minimum wage is currently only \$7.25 per hour and has been since 2009, and just \$2.13 per hour for tipped workers, which has not changed since 1991.¹”

AAUW urges Congress to “increase the minimum wage by passing the Raise Wage Act of 2021. If enacted, this legislation would raise the federal minimum wage to \$9.50 this year and increase it over the next five years until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2025. After 2025, the minimum wage will be adjusted each year to keep pace with growth in the median wage. The bill phases out the outdated subminimum wage for tipped workers, and also sunsets the ability of employers to pay workers with disabilities a subminimum wage...”

Read more here:

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/02/Raise-the-Wage-Act-Letter-to-Congress-02.11.21-FINAL.pdf>

what transformational leaders need to know to drive forward groundbreaking ideas.” [Read the report by clicking here.](#)

[Patrice Metro](#)
Public Policy Chair



Treasurer's Notes

Please take a look at the attached budget. This will be voted on at the April meeting. I will be collecting dues starting in April. All dues should be paid by June 1, 2021. There will be an increase in National dues by \$3.00. The total for members will be \$92 and \$30 for lifetime members. Please note the attached application for lifetime membership. This has not been offered in a while and some members might want to take advantage of this. I have also included the attached application for honorary membership (for those who have been members 50 years). If there are questions please don't hesitate to ask me. Thanks.

[Sandy Carle](#)
Treasurer

Seeking Candidates

Our branch president, Ginny Giordano, will be finishing her term in June. As chair of the Nominating Committee, I am seeking candidates to fill or share her position. Please contact me with any suggestions. Also, self-nomination is highly encouraged. I will be happy to fill you in as to the responsibilities of the president. It is not as daunting as you may think. Our branch has a very experienced board who will be more than willing to help you.

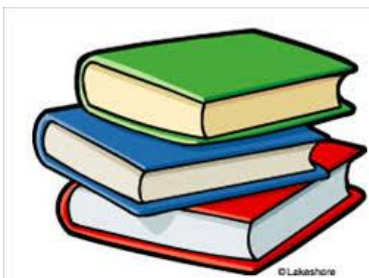
[Sheila Doherty](#)
Nominating Chair
781 267-1098 (mobile)

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.



Book Discussion



Our branch book discussion group meets monthly from September-May on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The list of the monthly selections is posted on the branch web page,

direct link <https://aauw-ma.aauw.net/files/2020/08/2020-2021-Book-List.pdf>. Until further notice discussion will be held via Zoom. The meetings are open to all branch members. If you would like to receive an invitation to participate, please contact [Lynn Howard](#) (781-901-9120 mobile).

Save the Date!
AAUW-MA Annual
Membership Meeting
Saturday, April 17
3 – 5 pm on Zoom
All are invited!

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>

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

Equity Now

Together, we can achieve a vision
of equal opportunity for all

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Branch Program	10	11	12	13
14 Daylight Saving starts	15	16 Book Discussion	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21	22	23 Branch Board Meeting	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 April Fools' Day	2 Good Friday	3

March 9, Branch Program: Degree or No Degree? That is the Question, 7 pm via Zoom

March 16, Book discussion of *The Dutch House*, by Ann Patchett, 6:30 pm via Zoom

March 23, Branch Board Meeting, 7pm via Zoom

April 17, AAUW-MA Annual Membership Meeting, 3-5 pm via Zoom