

FALL ISSUE - SEPTEMBER 2020

BAYSTATER

AAUW MASSACHUSETTS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



President's Note:

LOOKING FORWARD TO FALL

The Board of Directors has been meeting regularly on Zoom since the June 2020 Annual Meeting. The Board of the Directors includes the state affiliate's (AAUW of Massachusetts) executive officers and the presidents of the six area branches (aka affiliates). We started the regular meetings to fill the gaps in governance created by a relatively small group of volunteer executive officers (right now we number five). Also, we questioned the viability of the state affiliate as currently organized for the near term, and we want to create a governance plan for the next five years. During these meetings we address inter-Branch communication, public policy, Bylaws, and the future of governance for the state affiliate. These meetings are providing us with more frequent communication between the state affiliate and the branches. We are sketching out a realistic timeline for an all members meetings. We may be able to pull off two, but we will definitely host one annual meeting/convention in the spring. A mass e-mail will be sent to members when a date or dates is finalized. At this time, of course, expect a video conference.

In this issue we will cover...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VOTING INFORMATION

BRANCH UPDATES

ADVOCACY

& MORE!

End Systemic Oppression of Black Lives

LETTER TO THE EDITOR PIECE

The following letter was published in *The Salem News* in observance of Juneteenth. Patricia Fae Ho, our current co-chair in public policy wrote it.

AAUW of Massachusetts stands united in the pursuit of justice to end the violence of discrimination against people of color. We express our grief in reflecting on the countless lives lost and the vindictive subjugation of basic rights. We condemn racism which is so deeply rooted in our country and demonstrated in many aspects of our lives -- from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. There can be no justice or equality when any individuals are treated with indignity and denied equitable access to health care, quality education, desirable housing and opportunities for job advancement and economic security. We join other members in our communities as we fight for justice and lasting change. We stand in solidarity against racism at all levels - interpersonal, institutional and cultural. The systemic oppression faced by Black families can be traced to historic injustices such as slavery, segregation, redlining areas of a city by race, unequal access to government programs, voter suppression and other ongoing institutionalized discrimination. These disparities span generations and perpetuate marginalization of many segments of our American society. Our democracy thrives when individuals and groups are empowered to achieve and succeed.

Stacy Fatale

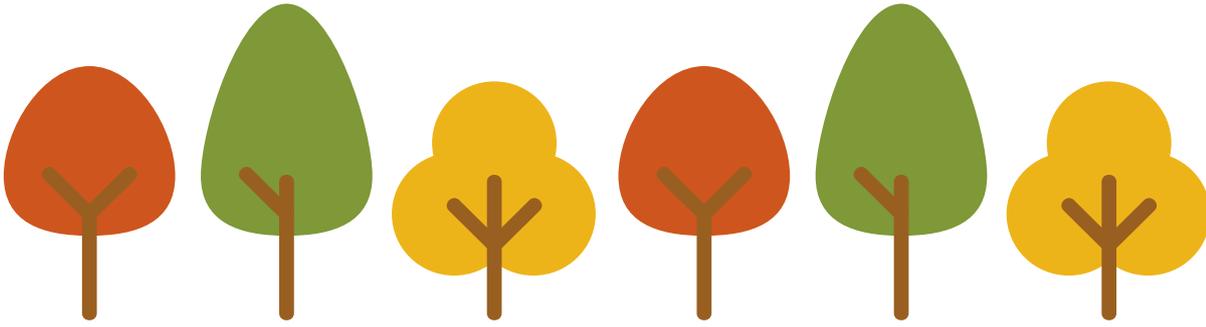
President, AAUW of Massachusetts
Sfata011@gmail.com

Board of Directors of AAUW MA

Patricia Fae Ho

AAUW Past President
Co-Chair, Public Policy, AAUW MA

President's Message Continued...



Below are the names and roles of the current Executive Officers:

Stacy Fatale, President/Administrator: sfata011@gmail.com

Robin DeMott, Treasurer: rkdemott@comcast.net

Tia Gerber, Communications: roytm@merrimack.edu

Patricia Fae Ho, Public Policy Co-Chair: aauwpres@gmail.com

Patrice Metro, Public Policy Co-Chair: patriceuk@aol.com

I am grateful to Patricia Fae Ho and Patrice Metro for volunteering to co-chair the area of public policy. This is a strongly welcome development since our June 2020 meeting. We had not had a public policy officer for two years. Welcome both of you as Executive Officers and members of the Board of Directors. Welcome again, Patricia Fae Ho.

The board of directors wants to bring Bylaws in line with a realistic state organization for the next few years. We also want to maintain a public policy presence in Massachusetts. We desire to use our own initiative as well as to collaborate with so many great advocacy organizations in Massachusetts to pursue commonly desired policy goals in Massachusetts.



Mark your calendars for the Winter 2020 Baystater!

WINTER 2020 Baystater Articles
will be due on Tuesday,
December 15th 2020!

**Please send all articles to Tia
at roytm@merrimack.edu**

**Please include "Baystater" as
the subject line :)**



South Shore Area Branch

The South Shore Area Branch held a very successful September program meeting. If your branch is searching for ways to stay connected during Covid-19 times, we offer this as a suggestion that takes very little planning. Our branch subscribed to a Zoom account (a free account would work but it is limited to 40 minutes so participants might have to re-sign in). We sent out the Zoom link to our members and their guests to attend the program, no shoes necessary. For Zoom neophytes, we put a link to a short YouTube Zoom tutorial in our newsletter. For the program we used Kim Churches video, "The State of the Association," Spring 2020 from the 2020 Convening Series

Cape Cod Branch

Our October meeting on the 27th, will be "Getting Out the Vote and Women Suffrage". With the restrictions for COVID-19 for anytype of in-person meetings and for eating in a restaurant (as we usually do in December and May), it is difficult to make plans and at the same time, keep everyone safe. In the meantime, our Scholarship Recipient for this year has begun school at Cape Cod Comunity College in the nursing program.

Taunton Area Branch

The Taunton Area branch has begun a discussion of **White Fragility** by Dr. Robin DiAngelo. We will be meeting over Zoom to continue our discussion up to Chapter 5. Anyone interested in joining can contact Cristina Ajemian at cmajemian@aol.com.

Our first program over Zoom will be on Wednesday, October 14 at 7 pm. Bridgewater Town Clerk and Taunton AAUW member will discuss the different ways to vote during this exceptional election. On Thursday November 12, the branch will hear from Cleonie Mainveille, co-founder of D.I.C.E., Diversity and Inclusion for an Empowered Community, a parent and community group formed in response to issues of inclusion in the Bridgewater-Raynham school district.

All you need to know about VOTING

PATRICE METRO

Voting This Year in Massachusetts

The pandemic has implications for voting safely across the country. AAUW-MA wants to make sure our members know how to vote in Massachusetts for the November 3 State Election.

There are three options for voting in Massachusetts: 1.) Vote by mail. 2.) Vote in person early: In-person early voting for the State Election will be held October 17 - 30. Early voting is available by mail and in person to all registered voters. No excuse is required. Early voting by mail will begin as soon as ballots are ready. 3.) Vote in person for the State Election on Tuesday, November 3.

TO VOTE BY MAIL –

You must complete a 'vote by mail application' and send or deliver it to your local election office if you have not already done so. Due to the pandemic, you do not have to have a reason to vote by mail. In late July, the State sent out 'vote by mail applications' to all registered voters. If you didn't receive one or need another, you can download an application and get instructions by clicking here:

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elev/early-voting-by-mail.htm>

To ensure timely delivery of your ballot, it is recommended that you submit your application for a November ballot no later than October 20. Applications received after October 28 cannot be accepted. State Election ballots need to be postmarked no later than November 3 and must be back at your local election office no later than November 6. Be sure to return the ballot in plenty of time. Check your local election office for information about hand delivering completed ballots.

You can also track your ballot here:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx>

Early voting schedules and locations for each city and town will be posted at www.MassEarlyVote.com no later than October 9.

You can check your registration and/or register to vote here:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx> More details are available on the MA Secretary of State's website. Here is the link for FAQs: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elev/early-voting-faq.htm>

AAUW MA Advocacy

STACY FATALE

Ending Sexual Violence on Higher Education Campuses

AAUW of Massachusetts participated in a Virtual Day of Advocacy on September 15th to advocate for the passage of An Act relative to sexual violence on higher education campuses, (H.4418/S.2580), and An Act requiring sexual misconduct climate surveys at institutions of higher education (H.1208). The effort to pass these bills is led by a coalition fighting sexual violence on campus: Every Voice, or, Every Voice Coalition (EVC), of which AAUW of MA is a member.

Led by current university students, recent graduates, survivors of sexual violence, and organizations dedicated to ending sexual violence, this coalition has made a big impact over the last five years.

Also critical has been the engagement of legislators presenting these bills. Among them are Lori A. Ehrlich, William N. Brownsberger, and Tricia Farley-Bouvier. Many legislators have petitioned in support of these bills. At the virtual event, a powerful survivor told her story, and Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo also gave his commendation and support.

To advocate for the bills passages, contact your respective representative and senator in the State House. The progress of the bills looks even better now, especially since the legislature extended the current active session until early January 2021. An extra push now will support the passage and implementation of these bills for the very near future. Young people, staff, and others on campuses, cannot wait for necessary changes to the current environment.

Every Voice Coalition,

[https://www.everyvoicecoalition.org/Massachusetts Legislature,](https://www.everyvoicecoalition.org/Massachusetts%20Legislature)

<https://malegislature.gov/>

Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights

In August, AAUW of MA signed on to a letter of support for the Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights in Massachusetts (S.2874/H.3977). This bill provides student borrowers with basic consumer protections, gives borrowers an in-state advocate that they can contact with complaints or questions, and helps borrowers to create a sustainable repayment process. To learn more about this bill go to:

Hildreth Institute, <https://hildrethinstitute.org/>

Remembering RBG

PATRICIA FAE HO

Like so many others who have cherished integrity, sacrifice and commitment to duty, I was heartbroken by the passing of our beloved RBG.

Many tributes have described her extraordinary achievements on behalf of civil rights and gender equity during her judicial career as a “relentless litigator”. She spoke truth to power and grounded her decisions on the inclusive definition of equality.

We in AAUW feel a special, warm connection with RBG. She was most enthusiastically greeted when she spoke at a national convention some years ago. But it was her 2007 dissent in the Supreme Court case of Ledbetter v Goodyear Tire Co that prevailed upon Congress to correct that majority decision that was “totally at odds with the robust protection against workplace discrimination.”

AAUW had taken up the cause for equal pay and supported Lilly Ledbetter, who remains a staunch AAUW member and friend. I remember with pride that the first bill that President Obama signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. And who was present at the signing? Lilly and AAUW leaders!

We have hope and faith that other courageous, principled leaders – women and men— will continue to fight for social justice and freedom from discrimination. We in AAUW must believe in equity, in removing all barriers to equal participation and contribution to our world. RBG lives on through her legacy.

AAUW Masks

AAUW MICHIGAN

AAUW MICHIGAN has fancy masks for sale! Check out their website or social media for more information on their AAUW masks!



Tia Roy is now Tia Gerber! Tia & Chris got married on Saturday, August 8th 2020 :)

It was a perfect, small backyard ceremony in Nottingham NH.

