



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

News of Note

April 2021

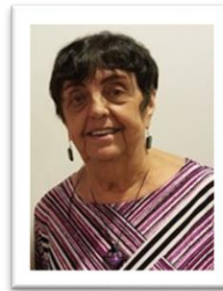
Branch Program **Let's Tour the North and South Rivers** **April 13, 2021** **7:00 p.m. on Zoom** **Presented by The North and South Rivers Watershed Association**



Join us for a virtual tour of the North and South Rivers. We will share the natural beauty of these rivers, which are recognized as Natural National Landmarks. The North River is the only Scenic Protected River in Massachusetts. The estuaries of these tidal rivers with their salt marshes serve as nurseries of life for our oceans, provide flood storage, and are home to many species. The North and South Watershed Association will share highlights of their work in education, engagement, advocacy, and river restoration to advance our mission to protect local waters.

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.

Ginny Giordano, Program Chair



President's Message

Hello Spring and hopefully "A New Year". It has been a year now since the Pandemic was declared and there seems to be something to look forward to. Not only is the weather improving but the thoughts of finally being able to see and gather with friends. With the vaccine becoming more available many people will begin to feel more comfortable gathering together. My hope is that by September, the beginning of our AAUW Calendar year, we can return to some semblance of "normal". I think keeping Zoom in mind for some meetings (like winter months) may be a good idea.

I want to thank Hollie for putting together the March meeting regarding the change in membership requirements for AAUW. There was interaction with the members who participated both pro and con for this change. If you missed the meeting you can still find information on line or in the March NON and also in this month's NON and be sure to remember that voting starts April 7!

The month's program is being presented by the North and South River Watershed Association. They had planned to do an April program for us last year but if you recall by then everything was shut down and I'm not sure that many of us really knew what "ZOOM" was. I was finally able to connect with them and reestablish our arrangements for this April. NSRWA has been very active for the last few months. Every time I check Facebook they are introducing new programs and ideas for outside activities. Their plan for our meeting is to show a short film that highlights the beauty of the North and South Rivers, and then share a few highlights of their work through a virtual picture tour of these rivers. There will be time for a Q &



A at the end. I am looking forward to seeing their pictures of the Rivers and hearing their presentation. It will help us to look forward to spring and summer. Be sure to join us on April 13th at 7PM.

I feel we have been fortunate to maintain our usual program schedule this year and I thank all of you who have helped us to do this. I am looking forward to seeing you all when we begin our new year in September and for you to continue your involvement in this wonderful organization.

[Ginny Giordano](#)
President

Membership Matters

The 2021-2022 AAUW year is almost here! 2020 has been a long, strange, isolating year and many organizations continue to have concerns with low membership numbers. Growing and retaining membership is an ongoing struggle for all AAUW branches. Below are a few reminders of benefits AAUW has to offer its members:

- Leadership opportunities at the branch, state and national level
- Educational opportunities such as fellowships and career development grants
- Advocacy: Take action and learn ways to get involved with AAUW work to advance gender equity. AAUW promotes and support laws and policies that enable success for women.
- Webinar series: highlights include equity research and resources to guide advocacy
- Discounts & Perks: Long-term care insurance, car insurance, pet insurance, travel discounts (tours, cruises, hotels, car rental, etc.)

In addition to these opportunities, there are many online webinars and Zoom meetings available to stay in touch with both state and chapter issues and events. The biggest benefit of membership in AAUW is camaraderie!! Remember to take care of yourself and your AAUW branch members.

[Gail Saccone](#)
Membership Co-Chair

Equity Now

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

Public Policy

(This article is condensed from my article in the next Baystater.)

There are four bills of particular importance to us currently. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) has just passed the US House of Representatives and has been sent to the Senate. AAUW will continue to pressure Congress to pass this so we can finally progress the amendment. Brief information is provided below.

There are three bills in the Massachusetts legislature that we are watching:

- An Act providing affordable and accessible high quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy in the Commonwealth
- An Act to end child marriage in Massachusetts
- An Act to guarantee debt-free public higher education

They are also briefly outlined below.

Finally, after the information about the four bills, there is a section with links to policy and advocacy resources on the AAUW website.

The ERA and the 117th U.S. Congress (2021-2022)

This joint resolution eliminates the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, which prohibits discrimination based on sex. The amendment was proposed to the states in House Joint Resolution 208 of the 92nd Congress, as agreed to in the Senate on March 22, 1972. The amendment shall be part of the Constitution whenever ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states.

On March 17, the House of Representatives voted to lift the deadline to ratify the ERA and make it the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. At time of writing this article, it still has to pass the Senate.

S.J.Res.1 - A joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/1>)

Introduced in Senate (01/22/2021) by Senator Cardin (D-MD). Co-sponsor: Senator Murkowski (R-AK). No other co-sponsors to date.

H.J.Res.17 - Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-joint-resolution/17>)

Introduced in the House (01/21/2021) by Representative Speier (D-CA-14). 209 co-sponsors including all the MA representatives except, a/o 3.13.21, Rep Neal.
3/18/2021 - Passed and sent to the Senate.

Some actions you can take:
Click on the links of the two ERA bills above currently being considered by the U.S. House and Senate. Click the tab for Cosponsors to see if your representatives have signed on. If they have, send a note thanking them for their support. If they haven't, send them an email or postcard, encouraging them to support the resolution.

An Act providing affordable and accessible high quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy in the Commonwealth

This bill will provide universal, affordable early education. It will also provide funding for after-school programs for children until age 12, and there will be grants to train early educators.

You can follow the two bills here:
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1960>
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD1307>

An Act to end child marriage in Massachusetts

An Act to end child marriage in Massachusetts would keep the marriage age at 18 and eliminate the dangerous loophole allowing marriage before 18 with parental “consent” and judicial approval.

248,000 minors were married between 2000 and 2010 in the US according to a 2018 study. (Child Marriage— Shocking Statistics, UNCHAINED AT LAST <http://www.unchainedatlast.org/child-marriage-shocking-statistics/> [visited 3.13.21]).

In Massachusetts, a loophole has allowed for almost 60 children under the age of 16 to be married between 2000 and 2016. [Based on marriage license data from Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, retrieved by Unchained and analyzed by Dr. Alissa Koski and her graduate students at McGill University in Montreal].

You can follow the two bills here:
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD292>
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD718>

An Act to guarantee debt-free public higher education

An Act to guarantee debt-free public higher education will guarantee free public higher education as a right for all residents.

You can read the bill’s text and follow the two bills here:
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD1148>
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD426>

Links to policy and advocacy resources on the AAUW website.

Two-Minute Activists
<https://secure.everyaction.com/t79k4XW2qE6zElzj0xIIKA2>

AAUW Action Fund
<https://www.aauwaction.org/>

Advocacy Toolkit
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/>

AAUW Webinars
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Toolkit
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>

The Equity Network
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/equity-network/>

Equity Express is a monthly newsletter that provides career tips, information and inspiration to those interested in workplace gender equity.
[\(https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/equity-network/\)](https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/equity-network/)

[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. Your 2021-2022 dues bill is attached to this newsletter. If there are questions please don’t hesitate to ask me. Thanks.

[Sandy Carle](#)
Treasurer



Meeting Follow-up

After our March meeting on eliminating the degree requirement for AAUW membership, I wrote to my friend, Patricia Fae Ho, knowing she could give us clarification on some of the issues raised at the meeting. Patricia is immediate past AAUW president/chair and a former AAUW-MA president. My email to her will serve as a recap of our branch meeting.

Patricia,

As you know the South Shore Area Branch held its branch meeting on Tuesday evening on the topic of AAUW Open Membership. It was about as well attended as usual. We would have liked to see more.

Both points of view were presented. We used the PowerPoint on the AAUW website to present the national view and added some points for keeping the requirement at the end. The majority of us are still undecided as we can see both views. We all realize the two issues are equity and money. Many believe we can still be true to our mission and keep the degree requirement. We have always fought for equity through our programs, our policies, our actions, our research, our fellowships, LAF, etc. We realize the things I have just mentioned are also what sets us apart from other organizations so in the end it all boils down to money. We realized the membership cannot support the organization.

Here is our question: does AAUW keep statistics on how many times we have been turned down for funding with the reason being given that our degree requirement makes us non-inclusive and therefore, ineligible for funding. Our members seem to feel that there must be foundations/corporations that would judge us more on our programs, research, strategic plan, etc. rather than our membership requirements. They would like to know who specifically turned us down, but they also know it is highly unlikely that the information would be released.

They would also like to know, of the 400+ organizations devoted to equity, how many others have some kind of a membership requirement?

We did have a new (2nd year) member express her viewpoint that she had joined AAUW because of its degree requirement out of all the organizations she could have joined. She found us. We did not recruit her.

There were also questions about the Equity Network. How does it fit into the picture? We do not question the good of having it, but many feel it is the future AAUW-- a national (basically web-based) organization open to all funded by donations, grants and corporations/ foundations.

I want you to know that all of us are giving this serious thought so anything new you can add to help us make a decision will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all you do for AAUW,

Hollie

Patricia's answer:

Dear Hollie,

Thank you for your update with questions and comments reflecting SSAB member thoughts. If you wish, you may share my response.

Since November 2020 I have been part of the Racial and Social Justice Working Group comprised of 6 former and current AAUW national presidents/board chairs, and several national board and staff members to discuss how best we might move the open membership bylaws amendment toward approval by our membership. Each of us fully believes that eliminating the degree membership requirement would advance the intent of the AAUW mission.

During our Zoom discussions, we have focused on alignment with our equity mission and the need for greater diversity and inclusivity in our changing environment. It is true, as Julia Brown and Kim Churches have stated in Town Halls, that membership dues contribute 15 - 20% of revenue and that AAUW does not currently fulfill DEI requirements of some corporations and foundations.

But, as I think over the major points of our Working Group discussions, the emphases have been on adhering, truly fulfilling the statement of our mission — to advance equity, with the understanding that it is equity for all — and therefore we cannot exclude some based on educational requirements.

While we consider the practices and activities of other women's rights and equity organizations, we are more concerned with maintaining our AAUW identity as expressed in our mission and making that consistent throughout the organization.

I am a supporter of NOW, LWV, YWCA, Planned Parenthood and other equity organizations, and AAUW is the only one I know with an education requirement for membership.

The conscientious efforts of our members to consider these points is so greatly appreciated. In the 2017 vote tally regarding open membership, 13% of our members voted 73-45 in support of the amendment. The national

tally was 7103 (53%) in favor-- 6181 (46%) opposed. As you know this amendment needed to be approved by 2/3 of votes.

So, we must urge our members to vote — according to their conscience, but they must vote because this decision impacts all members and the organization.

Another point that your branch addressed was the Equity Network which is described as an inclusive learning community with a single goal — equity for all. There are no membership requirements for participation and this offers opportunities to network and share professional and leadership skills in different settings. This initiative is one way AAUW is trying to evolve, to meet different demographic and professional needs in a different world.

We are all too familiar with CHANGE, particularly prompted by the economic, social, political stresses of COVID on individuals, businesses, communities and our country. We have witnessed the need to move from the familiar, to recognize the changes around us and to adapt. Likewise it is for AAUW.

The posted slide presentation and talking points in the tool kit are excellent. I particularly appreciate the statement: “In order to continue to support those who are excluded or marginalized, we need to stop excluding and marginalizing.”

My last comment: one of the most valuable contributions we can make to AAUW would be ensuring that the organization is diverse, inclusive, true to its mission, and sustainable in an evolving world.

Patricia Fae Ho

Voting will open on April 7, 2021 and close May 17, 2021 5:00 PM ET. More information can be found on this issue at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership-toolkit/>

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](mailto:LynnHoward@aauw-ma.aauw.net) (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

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter Sunday Passover ends	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Branch Meeting 7pm	14	15	16 Emancipation Day	17 AAUW-MA Annual Membership Meeting 3-5pm
18	19 Patriots' Day	20 Book Discussion 6:30pm	21	22 Earth Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 May Day

April 13, Branch Program: Let's Tour the North and South Rivers, 7 pm via Zoom

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

April 20, Book discussion of *The Night Watchman* by
Louise Erdrich, 6:30 pm via Zoom