

South Shore Area Branch of AAUW

News of Note, March 2025

Branch Meeting

Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women

March 11th at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom



Gabrielle Jackson, an Eastern Regional Commissioner, from the MA Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) will join us to share information about the MCSW. The mission of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) is to advance women toward full equality in all areas and to promote rights and opportunities for all women. The Commission exists to provide a permanent, effective voice for women and girls across Massachusetts, and represents fundamental freedoms, basic rights, and the full enjoyment of life for all throughout their lives. There are eleven county and regional commissions and each regional commission consists of 9-13 persons who are appointed by the MCSW to a 1-3 initial term. As part of their mission they run several programs to promote rights and opportunities for all women and girls across Massachusetts such as Commonwealth Heroines, Girls Empowerment Leadership, Advocacy Day, and Speakers Bureau. As you can see their mission and programs align nicely with AAUW's, so I hope you'll join the Zoom meeting on **Tuesday, March 11th** to hear more about this organization. In the meantime you can check out their website: [MA Commission on the Status of Women. https://masscsw.org/](https://masscsw.org/)

The Zoom link for the program is on the calendar page.

President's Message



As usual February was a very cold and snowy month, but the good news is that March is here which means that spring is on the way! On February 5th many of us joined the **All Member Gathering** webinar on Zoom. During this webinar we heard from Cheryl Sorokin, National Board Chair, Gloria Blackwell, CEO and Megan Kissell, Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy. They provided updates on what has been happening on the national level and the priorities and actions going forward. They set some ideas for branches and members to take. If you missed the webinar see the article, **Recap of the AAUW Winter Member Gathering** on page 2. Then on February 11th several of our members met to discuss the Winter Member meeting and talk about "Where Do We Go From Here?". The overall feeling people had after listening to the webinar was that we are proud to be a member of AAUW and we look forward to continuing to do what we can to advance the mission of AAUW. The challenge we face on the state and branch level is finding a way to get new members. We discussed how AAUW is known on the national level but AAUW isn't really known on the state or branch level because of the difficulty to get publicity with the disappearance of local newspapers. We weren't able to come up with any solutions at the meeting, but we are going to continue to move forward to advance equity for women and girls. We will continue to plan programs and activities that address the mission of AAUW and we will continue to advocate for legislation that addresses issues that improve the lives of women and girls in our communities.

Lynn Howard
President

Membership Matters



With the bitter cold months we have behind us and the weeks ahead of us, we are so fortunate to have access to Zoom. The board is working tirelessly to bring good programs that will interest members and potentially new members. We are always on the lookout for adding to our membership. Help us along by inviting friends and family to join you on one of our monthly programs. We also welcome current members to join our monthly book discussion group on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Stay focused on what our new President is doing. We cannot lose the progress we have made.

Let's "Each one, Reach one". Recruit a new member in 2025.

Anne Foley
Membership VP

Recap of the AAUW Winter Member Gathering

Here is Gail Saccone's recap of the All-Member Meeting on February 5th. View the webinar at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PDN1kZsNXQ>

Cheryl Sorokin: AAUW National Board Chair

Mission: Advance Equity for Women and Girls

FIVE CALLS TO ACTION:

Join: bring in others, collective strengths

Learn: from each other

Share: share with others to increase awareness of our mission

Act: need to engage in advocacy for policies that support women

Give: time, talent, financial support

REFOCUS, RETHINK, REGROUP TO MOVE FORWARD

Gloria Blackwell: AAUW Chief Executive Officer

- Spoke on the Trump administration's ruling on Title IX: "Direct attack on students nationwide...more difficult for most vulnerable students to report their harassment and seek protection"
- Economic stability is in danger. We must work to "shape a future where equity is reality"
- We must support women to get higher education. Economic empowerment is critical. Important for women to get the skills that lead to financial independence.
- AAUW has given out Fellowships and Grants of \$6.3 million to 261 women (3K applicants).

Meghan Kissell: AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy

- Spoke about the 119th Congress and the Anti-transgender bill, 50+ Executive orders already passed by the new administration
- AAUW has to increase visibility. Working on FMLA job protections for unpaid leave, redefining gender, curriculum control, vouchers at state level, DEI, etc.

AAUW NATIONAL VALUE TO MEMBERS (Survey Results)

- Administrative
- Subject matter expertise
- Volunteer coordination
- Training, resources, and tools
- Branding and marketing
- Policy and Member advocacy

Goals: Use Pell Grants to train workforce and for short-term programs

Double Pell grants for career technical education

Need to continue to strive for the best version of Title IX

Must meet the needs of evolving students and diverse background

Below are helpful resources that were referenced during the webinar, centered around our five calls to action:

1. JOIN

a. AAUW's Main Membership Page:

<https://www.aauw.org/membership/>

2. LEARN

a. Recent Virtual Events:

i. Table Talks: Tips for Bold Conversations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6m-nM8gXc>

ii. Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women's Economic Security

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku1D3t6g1Lg>

b. AAUW's FY24 Annual Report:

<https://l.feathr.co/fiscalyear2024annualimpact>

c. The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap (2025 Update): <https://www.aauw.org/issues/equity/pay-gap/>

d. Salary Negotiation and Financial Literacy Trainings:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/womens-economic-empowerment-initiative/>

3. ACT

a. Ask the Senate: Examine Record of Ed Secretary Nominee McMahon:

<https://aaup.quorum.us/campaign/105979/>

4. SHARE

a. Fellowships and Grants Information:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>

b. State by state data on the gender pay gap:

<https://www.aauw.org/issues/equity/pay-gap/>

c. AAUW National's Value to Members and Affiliates

i. Administrative

1. Community Hub: Tools and Resources:

<https://www.aauw.org/membership/new-systems-update/>

2. State and Branch Tools:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/state-branch/>

ii. Subject Matter Expertise

1. Speaker Request Form:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/state-branch/request-a-speaker/>

2. iii. Volunteer Coordination

3. 1. AAUW National Board and Committees:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/committees/>

iv. Training, Resources and Tools

1. General Leader Resources and Tools Page:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/>

2. Five Star Program:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

3. Membership Matters (Newsletter for Member Leaders)

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/>

4. Connect Team Office Hours for Member Leaders every Tuesday and Thursday – Registration is at the bottom of the page:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/state-branch/>

v. Branding and Marketing

1. Download AAUW Logos and Branding Materials: Branding Materials

2. AAUW In the News:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/in-the-news/>

3. AAUW Press Releases:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/>

vi. Policy and Member Advocacy

1. AAUW's Advocacy Work:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/documents/>

5. GIVE

a. Ways to Give:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/ways-to-give-aauw/>

b. Legacy Circle:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/ways-to-give-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>

c. FreeWill:

https://www.freewill.com/smartgiving/aauw?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=aauw_waystogivepg



Public Policy

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) Advocacy Day March 24, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm State House

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) is a state-established body charged with reviewing the status of women in Massachusetts and offering recommendations regarding policy that would improve access to opportunities and equality.

The Commission recognizes the need for women to gain not only an equal share, but become equal participants in the areas of economics, health-care, civil rights, education and business development. The MCSW shares many broad objectives with AAUW.

Plymouth County is among the eleven Regional Commissions throughout the state.

Advocacy Day is an event held every other year by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) and their partners. They rally at the Massachusetts Statehouse and visit legislators to promote legislation that advances the rights and opportunities of women and girls across the Commonwealth.

The MCSW invites all members of the community to join them at the Massachusetts Statehouse on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 11am.

When: Monday, March 24, 2025

Where: Massachusetts Statehouse

Why: Rally for legislation that supports women and girls across the Commonwealth.

REGISTER HERE.

<https://masscsw.org/programs/advocacy-day-2025-registration/>

Become an AAUW Two-Minute Activist:

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Patrice Metro
Public Policy Chair

Book Discussion

Our branch book discussion group meets monthly from usually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm via



Zoom. The monthly selections for 2024-2025 are posted on the branch web page under Activities. The meetings are open to all branch members. If you would like to receive a Zoom link to any of the discussions, please contact [Lynn Howard](mailto:Lynn.Howard@aauw.org) (781-9019120, mobile). This month's selection is *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali.

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.



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

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>

Save the Date

May Celebration Dinner

May 13, 6 pm

Grill 151, Weymouth

SOUTH SHORE AREA BRANCH CALENDAR

March 2025 Women's History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 National Equal Pay Day Ash Wednesday	6	7	10
9	10	11 Branch Program 7pm	12		14	15 Ides of March
16 Freedom of Information Day	17 Saint Patrick's Day 	18 Book Discussion 6:30pm	19 National Let's Laugh Day 	20	21	22
23	24	25 Branch Board Meeting 7 pm	26	27	28	1

March 11, Branch Meeting, Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, 7 pm, Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83599202262?pwd=S3HmHEbpWQV3Vu0mUjYxaRTzwwFF5.1>

Meeting ID: 835 9920 2262

Passcode: 744018

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83599202262#,,,,*744018# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,83599202262#,,,,*744018# US

Dial by your location

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83180208431?pwd=i1Dk2BJ1H5igzbeogPHOR4DCTjgHgH.1>

Meeting ID: 831 8020 8431

Passcode: 035679

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+13092053325,,83180208431#,,,,*035679# US

Dial by your location

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

March 25, Branch Board Meeting, 7 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969345994?pwd=im9K80U3BDmpzNixMEpc9rvZVx9UfH.1>

Meeting ID: 899 6934 5994

Passcode: 897180

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+13052241968,,89969345994#,,,,*897180# US

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March 18, Book Discussion: *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali, 6:30 pm