

# News from the Northwest

May, 2022



**Newsletter of the Northwest Suburban Branch**

***Our Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls  
through research, education, and advocacy.***

***Our Vision: Equity for all.***

## **IT'S ANNUAL MEETING TIME!**

### **Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

### **12:30 p.m.**

### **Des Plaines Elks Club**

After having met virtually for SO long, our president would like to try a face-to-face meeting, so we are planning to get together on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Des Plaines Elks Club. They are open for Saturday lunch, with a limited menu, but there is certainly enough there for any of us to find something we would like to eat! We will be seated in the lounge next to the bar, so we will not be bothered by other diners and will not disturb them as we meet and socialize. We will order from the menu and pay our own bills.

So that we will know how many to expect, please contact Elaine Fisher ([elainefisher128@gmail.com](mailto:elainefisher128@gmail.com) or 630-335-4917) or Irene Jinks ([wijinks@aol.com](mailto:wijinks@aol.com) or 847-698-3113). However, don't stay away even if you have not made the contact; we can always set more places, even while social distancing!

The president's message on the following page indicates that we will be electing a couple of new branch officers and voting on bylaw changes which are required for our branch to be in compliance with AAUW bylaws. We hope that you will also have suggestions for programs for the coming year. Do you want to have in-person meetings, or would you prefer to remain virtual? Do you enjoy meeting with other branches, especially when we have virtual meetings, or would you rather have only our own group? Northwest Suburban Branch is *your* branch, and we would like it to be a branch that you continue to enjoy and support!

**2022 IS A SPECIAL YEAR!**

**Want to know why? Look inside!**

## **FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

It is May already! A time for “end of the program year” lunches, state convention, and annual elections.

We will be installing state officers at the AAUW Illinois convention at the Doubletree hotel in Lisle/Naperville on May 7th. You also should have received an email from Shannon Wolfe to vote on the national AAUW board members and two bylaw changes. I hope you did cast your votes by April 29th.

The candidate profiles for the new board members can be viewed on this web page:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/candidates/>

The bylaw changes seem reasonable and are explained here:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2022-comment-nominations/>

We had 18 AAUW members participate in our discussion of *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. The book inspired a thought-provoking conversation. I shared some resources that address biases that we may have. The author, Brit Bennett, wrote an essay, *I Don't Know What to Do with Good White People*, that is very enlightening and shares some experiences of her family. I would also encourage you to view a short video by P&G, entitled **The Look**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTuWj\\_DgpOw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTuWj_DgpOw)

Recognizing our own biases is the first step on the road to inclusion of diversity.

Our branch will have its annual meeting on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 p.m. at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee St. in Des Plaines. We will vote on the bylaw changes (see details later in the newsletter) and we will hold the election of two branch board officers: the president and the secretary. Candidates are Elaine Fisher, branch president, and Diane Forsythe, branch secretary. Nominations may also be made from the floor with prior consent of the nominee. Remember we do need a quorum for our annual meeting. Bring your program ideas for next year as well.

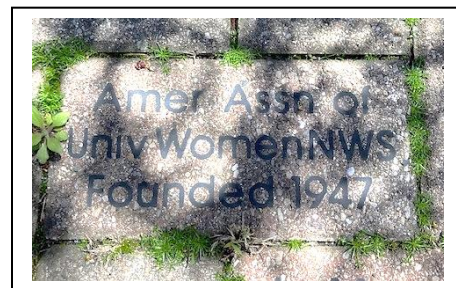
I hope to see you there, since we can finally get together!

Elaine

## **THIS IS OUR SPECIAL YEAR!**

It was in 1947, 75 years ago, that the Northwest Suburban Branch of The American Association of University Women was organized. Twenty women signed on as charter members and began working for an organization that became an important part of the growth of Des Plaines and for benefit programs that were established there.

Pili Richardson, a long-time member of the branch, recalls talking with the late Mary Margaret Forkins Reed about the early days of the branch and learning that the first meeting was held at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Des Plaines. When St. Martin's established its Meditation Garden, a brick was placed in honor of Northwest Suburban AAUW. The brick is still there, now located behind the parish house. (Thanks to Pili for the photo.)



Meeting places were changed over the years, but in the 1990's meetings were again held at St. Martin's after many years at Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Plaines, where the migrant school established by our branch developed into the preschool that still exists.

Seventy-five years, and we're still here – still supporting equity for women through our advocacy and action!

## **PROPOSED AAUW NW SUBURBAN BRANCH BYLAWS CHANGES**

The proposed changes align the dues increase approval with the national and state bylaws and clarify that the annual budget is developed by the board to fund branch activities. The branch budget after approval by the board will be published in the branch newsletter or a special email to members. Having lived with Covid 19 for two years, we experienced challenges in meeting together in any large number. This experience emphasized that bylaws need to provide direction, but not be so specific that we cannot be flexible in the way we carry out the direction.

### **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

#### **Section 4. Dues.**

**a. Amount.** Annual AAUW dues and Member benefits for any category of Member shall be set by the AAUW Board of Directors.

*Proposed change:*

#### **Section 4. Dues.**

**a. Amount.** Annual AAUW dues and Member benefits for any category of Member shall be set by the AAUW Board of Directors. **State and branch dues will be set by their respective boards.**

### **ARTICLE XII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

**Section 3. Budget.** The board shall adopt an annual budget for presentation to the branch.

*Proposed change:*

**Section 3. Budget.** The board shall adopt an annual budget **to publish to the branch.**

### **ARTICLE XIII. MEETINGS**

**Section 1. Annual Meeting.** The branch shall hold an annual meeting to conduct the business of the branch, including but not limited to, electing officers, establishing dues, amending bylaws and receiving reports. This meeting shall be held during the month of May.

*Proposed change:*

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**NORTHWEST SUBURBAN BRANCH**

**Founded in 1947**

**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF ACTIVISM IN 2022**

## **AN OPPORTUNITY FROM AAUW-IL**

### **Public Policy Training Series**

On Monday, May 16, 2022, at 6:00pm we are beginning our Zoom Series:

#### **USING AAUW VALUES TO PROTECT OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Many of our Public School Boards are being targeted by folks who oppose our AAUW Values. The issues range from teaching age appropriate health/sex education, allowing all students to succeed regardless of their sexual orientation and book banning. Let's speak up now to help our school board members manage the problem and protect our students.

#### **WE CAN DO THIS!**

This series of training will assist AAUW members to form coalitions with other like-minded organizations to form 'chat groups' to become a part of the solution to this unfortunate series of problems.

Please join us! AAUW Public Policy is the action that supports our VALUES!

Join the Zoom Meeting on May 16th with this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84364346285>

We hope to have this program recorded , so if date does not work for you, please listen to the recording.

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Purdue at [paulapatchwork@gmail.com](mailto:paulapatchwork@gmail.com)

[Tracey Sherman-Falcon](#) and [Paula Purdue](#)  
Public Policy Co-Chairs, AAUW IL

