

News from the Northwest

November/December, 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.

Greetings, Northwest Suburban AALLW Members!

***The calendar says the year is coming quickly to its close,
With holidays to celebrate – there sure are lots of those!***

***But we in AALLW plan in a different way –
We start and end in summer, when our dues we have to
pay.***

***So right now, we will focus on the regular calendar year
And wish the happiest of holidays to our members,
far or near!***

We will gather, via Zoom, on Wednesday, December 14th, 7:00 p.m. to share our holiday crafts and traditions. Our own Alice Jenks will share some of her work, and the rest of us can tell about something we do or especially enjoy at the holiday season. So, bring a cup of cheer, some cookies or goodies, and join your Northwest Suburban friends to toast the season!

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN BRANCH

Founded in 1947

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF ACTIVISM IN 2022

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

November has arrived, the election is over, the phones have stopped ringing and the holiday lights are appearing everywhere. I'm pleased that women's voices saved our rights in many places across the U.S. In Illinois, we elected Pro-choice women to the Illinois Supreme Court; that should protect our reproductive and healthcare rights for years to come. Voting rights seem secure in most states, which gives us some hope for the future presidential election.

On Nov. 12, the Chicago branch invited us to join them to hear from three recipients of **AAUW Fellowships and Grants**. It was very interesting to hear about the impact of AAUW on their lives. If you missed it, the program was recorded and will be posted to the Jane Addams branch web site. Don't forget the book discussion of **Madam Secretary** on Nov. 29th.

In **December**, we plan to focus on the holidays, and share crafts, decorations, and family traditions. Alice Jenks is an expert crafter and has a variety of items to show and share. However, we would like everyone to share something related to the holiday season. This sharing will help us get more acquainted. We will meet on Zoom so you will be able to share your craft or decoration with us all. This time of year, we also remember to make donations to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund and the Oakton Community College Educational Foundation AAUW Northwest Suburban Scholarship (more information on this later in the newsletter.)

Looking forward, in **January** we will learn about 50 years of progress due to Title IX. Save the program date, Tuesday, Jan. 17th. School board elections will take place in April. If you know someone who might consider running for school board, please encourage them to do so. Candidates need to submit petitions of support in late November. Remember that women need 8 or 10 people to urge them to run before they do it. In these times of book bans and attacks on health and history curriculum, we need strong people on school boards to support teachers and children's complete and honest education.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and I want to say **Thank you** to everyone for supporting AAUW policy issues, whether it is by serving as a branch officer, voting, advocating for our issues, or just being a member, which supports our AAUW research and legislative monitoring/lobbying.

Wishing you all a healthy Thanksgiving with family and friends,

Elaine Fisher

SAVE THE DATES!

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 7:00 p.m. – Book discussion: *Madam Secretary*, by Madeleine Albright

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7:00 p.m. – AAUW NW Suburban Program, *Sharing Our Holiday Traditions*

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 7:30 pm - AAUW Jane Addams program: *Roundtable of Book Reviews*

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:00 pm - AAUW NW Suburban Program: *Title IX 50 Years*

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 7:00 pm - Book discussion, Book to be chosen at November meeting

Saturday, May 13 – AAUW-IL State Convention; details to follow as they are received

NETWORKING LUNCHEON DISCONTINUED

For many of our members, it was a tradition to attend the annual networking luncheon of the branches of Districts 4 and 5 which was held at the end of January. Of course, it was not held during the years of the pandemic, and now it has been decided not to reinstate the luncheon. We hope that there may be other opportunities for members to interact with those from other branches, as we have been doing through our Zoom meetings with the Jane Addams branch.

OUR OAKTON SCHOLARSHIP

Every year our branch funds a scholarship at Oakton Community College for a woman who is returning to school and needs help with the tuition. The scholarship requires that the recipient have a GPA of at least 3.0!

This year the winner of our scholarship is Mariana Doroshkevich, a mother of three who is studying nursing. If you would like to send a little note of congratulations to her, her email is mariana.d777@gmail.com.

If you still have room in your charitable giving account this year, please consider sending a check to support this very worthwhile endeavor!

1. Make the check out to: Oakton Community College Educational Foundation
2. Mail to: Oakton Community College Educational Foundation
1600 E Golf Rd
Des Plaines, IL 60016-1268
3. Include in the memo line: American Association of University Women (NW Suburban Branch)
Scholarship
4. **PLEASE** also include a cover letter indicating that you would like your contribution to remain in the account **NW-Sub** to use for the 2024-2025 school year. (We are amply funded for the 2023-2024 year.)

Karen Heckmann
Branch Financial Officer

(Editor's Note: Karen was able to attend the Donors/Scholars Brunch held at Oakton Community College early this month and had the opportunity to meet Mariana. We can be very proud that we have been able to support this scholarship at Oakton for so many years. We have helped a lot of young women continue their education!)

ARE YOU A READER?

If you like to read, and enjoy books of various genres, you would surely enjoy being a part of our reading group which meets monthly, via Zoom. We choose our books based on member recommendations, usually only a couple of months in advance so that we can be flexible. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. We would welcome new members! If you are interested, contact Irene Jinks at wijinks@aol.com.



... for all of the blessings we enjoy ...

... and celebrate the holidays!

