



HIGHLIGHTS

IN EQUITY

AAUW Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst, Ohio Branch

A newsletter for members and friends who support gender fairness
March 2024, Volume 2023-2024, Issue 6

Writing a Legacy Love Letter



Program Worthy —

Our next program will be on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Euclid Public Library.

Our guest speaker is

Janice Lombardo, a certified End of Life Doula through IAP College (the private online career college International Association of Professions Career College). She specializes in Directive Planning, Legacy Projects, Caregiving Respite and Bereavement Support. Her services are non medical, holistic guidance, support, and education. She helps individuals and their loved ones plan for end of life. The presentation is titled **How to Write a Legacy Love Letter.**



We all fear, or the least feel apprehensive, about death. We don't know what it feels like, if it feels at all. But our feelings are very important to us. How do we express our feelings about death? It happens in so many ways. Is it really death that troubles us or our relationships with family and friends? We will talk about this and our end of life wishes during this presentation. So, come with questions and leave with answers.

I was totally captivated by Janice as I listened to her share her life story. Not only is she a survivor of many life tragedies, she is truly remarkable in her fortitude, compassion, and spiritual insight. You can find her on Facebook as My Angel Janice CEOLD; on LinkedIn as Janice Lombardo; and you can follow her on Cleveland Law of Attraction Meetup on the last Sunday of each month.

—Donna

Editor's note: we understand our speaker feels the session is more successful in person. She likes to circulate and work with individuals. However, if you cannot go to the Euclid Library, we plan for the Zoom link to be open.

Proposed National ByLaws Change Open Membership Vote to Open April 3, 2024

This branch has discussed AAUW's Bylaws regarding membership requirements. Each AAUW member will be eligible to vote on the change.

Watch for an email on or about April 3 when voting opens. Each member will receive the email. Voting will end May 15. Your branch needs you to vote.

AAUW Ohio Convention Saturday April 13, 2024

AAUW Ohio's bi-annual Meeting and Convention will be at Ohio's only historically Black university (HBCU), Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. Plan to spend a day with AAUW cohorts and friends from across the state. Read more and register for the in-person or online event at [AAUW Ohio's website](https://www.aauw.org/ohio).

Zoom Link for March 23 HHL Branch Meeting

HHL AAUW is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **AAUW HHL March Event**

Time: **Mar 23, 2024 12:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84879975212?pwd=aS9VRHdGN1BpQlpKTTFleXFhWTE2dz09>

Meeting ID: 848 7997 5212

Passcode: 290021

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,84879975212#,,,,*290021# US

+19292056099,,84879975212#,,,,*290021# US (New York)

Dial by your location

• +1 646 931 3860 US

Branch News: President's Column; Birthdays; Grapevine

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Grapevine—



Jan reports that she is continuing to improve every day and should be home back in the tender loving care of Bob very soon.



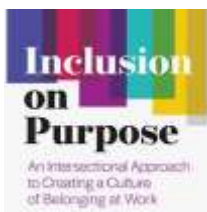
President's Column—Kay Rasmusen



Women's History Month Theme 2024

The National Women's History Alliance designates a yearly theme for Women's History Month. The 2024 theme celebrates Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. This theme recognizes women who understand the need to eliminate bias and discrimination from individuals' lives and institutions.

I would nominate Ruchika Tulshyan, the author of *Inclusion on Purpose* An Intersectional Approach to Creating a Culture of Belonging at Work. This was our group book read for February. One take away statistic is right in the beginning of the book about Why Inclusion On Purpose?



"McKinsey research finds that fully engaging women in the (workforce) would add \$4.3 trillion annually to the US economy by 2025. Global gender equity would add \$12 trillion to the global economy by 2025. Working alongside people from different backgrounds makes us smarter, more innovative, and hardworking, according to University of California, Berkeley research."

In the book the author interviews several Women of Color about their experiences in the workplace. Many times they experience a toxic leader, one who may humiliate them in front of their staff. The one interviewee said no one stood up for her when this happened. Eventually this WOC decided to leave this job, as do many others being treated so rudely. I looked up this woman she interviewed, Jodi-Ann Burey, and now she is a sought-after speaker and writer who works at the intersections of race, culture and health equity. She was quoted in Ms. Tulshyan's book, "Where can I go to be great and grow? A place where I could

(Continued on page 6)

Looking Ahead—

On Wednesday, April 24, at 7 pm, we will meet in person and on Zoom,



jointly with AAUW Northeast Ohio to participate in a program led by Lillian Evans of The College of Wooster. Her program is titled *The Power of Why*.



Learning objectives:

Participants will be able to identify at least one historic reference to the inequalities within STEAM.

Participants will recognize their "whys" for their current careers and compare those of the past for women in STEAM.

March birthdays:

Kay Rasmusen March 25

April birthdays:

Sarah Maasz April 2

Komeisha Rose April 10



AAUW—Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst Branch

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AAUW Ohio Update; March is Women's History Month.

Ohio Update—Nancy Stellhorn



AAUW Ohio News You Need to Know

AAUW Ohio discussed the book *Endpapers*, a fictional narrative of a young woman artist and book binder who is struggling to know her place and who she is. The story is set in 2003 before the mainstream used gender-nonconforming pronouns. It is fascinating to contrast experiences, feelings, and differences of gender fluid people in just the last 75 years. After convention, AAUW Ohio's DEI book discussions will continue with discussion of Michele Obama's book, *The Light We Carry: Overcoming Uncertain Times*.

All of you are welcome to join women from across Ohio on April 13, 2024 for a day of topics ranging from Public Policy to Public Education. Prepare for a Convention and Annual Meeting day filled with inspiration, empowerment, and connections. In person events will be hosted at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, Ohio's only public historically Black university (HBCU). Those who attend in person can visit the on-campus National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center.

Read more about AAUW Ohio's Bylaws change, election of officers, and branch awards on [AAUW Ohio's website](#). Registration is open to attend in person or by Zoom.

Nancy

Luggage for Foster Children

Every Child Needs a Family. Unfortunately not every family has the means to house a child that needs one. There are over 2,000 children in Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) custody through no fault of their own. Many continue to live unstable lives and can be moved from pillar to post because of the actions of adults who are not always able or competent to care for them. Imagine not being able to take any of your belongings with you if you were being relocated to the care of strangers. Imagine the psychological impact of having to move everything you own in a large garbage bag at a moment's notice. I may not be able to care for one of these children but I can provide them with a piece of lightweight luggage. AAUW HHL is collecting old, mildly worn luggage to donate to the DCFS. we are looking for small carry-on sizes approximately 22 x 14 x 9 inches. Please help by contacting us on Facebook to arrange a pick up.

March is National Women's History Month— an annual celebration in the United States that honors and recognizes the **significant contributions** of women to history, culture, and society. It takes place during the month of **March** each year. Let's delve into the details:

Origins and History:

The roots of Women's History Month trace back to a weeklong celebration organized by the school district of **Sonoma, California** in **1978**. During this event, presentations highlighted women's contributions, students participated in a "Real Woman" essay contest, and a parade graced downtown Santa Rosa.

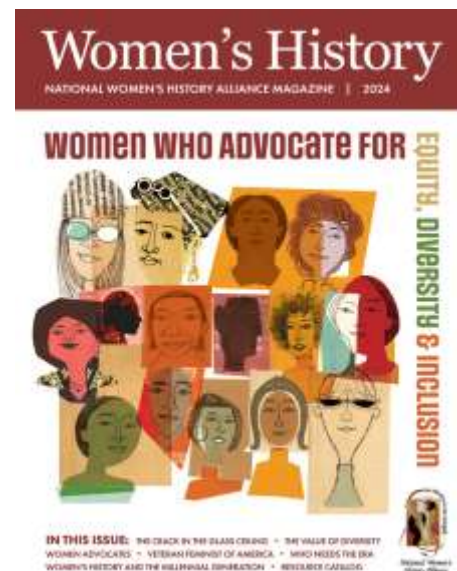
In **1980**, **President Jimmy Carter** issued the first presidential proclamation designating the week of **March 8** as **National Women's History Week**.

The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution to establish a national celebration.

Finally, in **1987**, the celebration expanded to the entire month of March, officially becoming **Women's History Month**.

Significance: Women's History Month provides an opportunity to reflect on the often-overlooked achievements of women throughout U.S. history. From trailblazers like **Abigail Adams** and **Susan B. Anthony** to civil rights icons like **Sojourner Truth** and **Rosa Parks**, women have played pivotal roles in shaping our nation.

It's a time to recognize their impact, resilience, and contributions across various fields.



Check out our branch website
for the latest branch information

<https://hhl-oh.aauw.net>

and our blog: <https://aauwahl.wordpress.com>

and find us and like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWHHL>

Diversity—Cindy Goldberg, Co-Chair



In celebration of a women's history month —

There are key figures in women's history and the history of the civil rights movement that many of us can name.

Perhaps each of us has her own list of key figures. I would like this article to tell you about some sisters who may not immediately come to mind.

Below, in this excerpt from the Wikipedia article devoted to them, we learn of their incredible contributions to the abolitionist movement, and to the rights of women. These two struggles may be seen as inexorably intertwined.

Sarah Moore Grimké (1792–1873) and Angelina Emily Grimké (1805–1879), known as the Grimké sisters, were the first nationally-known white American female advocates of abolition of slavery and women's rights. They were speakers, writers, and educators.

They were and remained the only Southern white women in the abolition movement. As the first American-born women to make a public speaking tour, they opened the way for women to take part in public affairs. As the first female anti-slavery agents, they saw the connection between civil rights for Negroes and civil rights for women. Sarah Grimké's pamphlet, *The Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Women*, represents the first serious discussion of woman's rights by an American woman.

They grew up in a slave-owning family in South Carolina, and in their twenties, became part of Philadelphia's substantial Quaker society. They became deeply involved with the abolitionist movement, traveling on its lecture circuit and recounting their firsthand experiences with slavery on their family's plantation. Among the first American women to act publicly in social reform movements, they were ridiculed for their abolitionist activity. They were early activists in the women's rights movement.

Sarah constantly studied the books in her father's library, teaching herself geography, history, and mathematics, but her father would not allow her to learn Latin, or go to college with her brother Thomas, who was at Yale Law School. Still, her father appreciated her keen intelligence, and told her that if she had been a man, she would have been the greatest lawyer in South Carolina.

Sarah was twenty-six when she accompanied her father, who was in need of medical attention, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she became acquainted with the Quakers. The Quakers had liberal views on slavery and gender equality, and Sarah was fascinated with their religious sincerity and simplicity, and also their disapproval of gender inequality and slavery. The sisters later separated from the Quakers over differences of the roles of women. They became ardent feminists and abolitionists.

Angelina Grimké wrote her first tract, *Appeal to the Christian Women of the South* (1836), to encourage Southern women to join the abolitionist movement for the sake of white womanhood as well as Black slaves. She demonstrated to Southern women that slavery was

contrary to the US Declaration of Independence. She advocated teaching slaves to read, and freeing any slaves her readers might own. Although legal codes of slave states restricted or prohibited both of these actions, she urged her readers to ignore wrongful laws and do what was right.

The sisters created more controversy when Sarah published *Epistle to the Clergy of the Southern States* (1836) and Angelina republished her *Appeal* in 1837. That year they went on a lecture tour, addressing Congregationalist churches in the Northeast. In addition to denouncing slavery, the sisters denounced race prejudice. Further, they argued that (white) women had a natural bond with female Black slaves. These last two ideas were extreme even for radical abolitionists. Their public speaking for the abolitionist cause continued to draw criticism, each attack making the Grimké sisters more determined. Responding to an attack by Catharine Beecher on her public speaking, Angelina wrote a series of letters to Beecher, later published with the title *Letters to Catharine Beecher*; staunchly defending the abolitionist cause and her right to publicly speak for that cause. By the end of the year, the sisters were being denounced from Congregationalist pulpits.

The following year Sarah responded to the ministers' attacks by writing a series of letters addressed to the president of the abolitionist society which sponsored their speeches. These became known as *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes*, in which she defended women's right to the public platform. By 1838, thousands of people flocked to hear their Boston lecture series.

Neither Sarah nor Angelina initially sought to become feminists, but felt the role was unavoidable. Devoutly religious, these Quaker converts' works are predominantly religious in nature, with strong Biblical arguments. Indeed, both their abolitionist sentiments and their feminism sprang from deeply held religious convictions.

Both Sarah, who eventually emphasized feminism over abolitionism, and Angelina, who remained primarily interested in the abolitionist movement, were powerful writers. They neatly summarized the abolitionist arguments which would eventually lead to the Civil War. Sarah's work addressed many issues that are familiar to the feminist movement of the late 20th century, 150 years later.

When Sarah was nearly 80, to test the 15th Amendment, the sisters attempted, unsuccessfully, to vote.

In conclusion, we can see that there are people of great renown who have slipped from public view, but who have left an indelible mark on society. We can hope that the leaders of today will be as great in their works, dedication and vision as these leaders of the past.

Fondly submitted by
Cindy
for the diversity committee



Sarah Moore Grimké

Angelina Emily Grimké

AAUW Diversity Policy: AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Forum Page--It's About Justice



**It's About Justice—
Meryl Johnson**



Itsaboutjustice@gmail.com
Listen to Meryl every Saturday on
"Its About Justice?"
1:00 to 2:00 pm
WRUW. 91.1 FM

"Eight-five percent of all juveniles dealing with incarceration or the court system are functionally illiterate." ABC News 5 Cleveland.

I was asked by Celeste Wainwright, assistant superintendent at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center, to begin a literacy tutoring program for the youth. I am asking each member of AAUW HHL to recruit at least one volunteer for this very important effort. Thank you in advance.

Meryl

The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading failure. Research from the U.S. Department of Justice

We cannot be full, evolved human beings until we care about basic human rights and dignity. Bryan Stevenson



The Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center is recruiting

VOLUNTEERS

to participate in our

LITERACY TUTORING PROGRAM

9300 Quincy Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Start Date: September 2024

Monday or Friday – One hour anytime between 4pm and 8pm once a week

*You will work one-on-one with a struggling reader who is presently a resident in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center.

*You will be required to do a background check at the Detention Center which will take about 15 minutes. Contact Jacqueline Brackett, Volunteer Coordinator, to make the appointment. Email: jbrackett@cuyahogacounty.us Phone number: (216) 443-3348

*There will be a zoom orientation for all volunteers.

If you are interested, contact Meryl Johnson at itsaboutjustice@gmail.com. Write **VOLUNTEERS** in the SUBJECT LINE.

Do not post this flyer. Instead, please reach out to people you know.
Let's turn some lives around. Thanks in advance. *Meryl*

More Branch News

(Continued from page 2) President's Message

contribute and mess up and do phenomenal work and get rewarded?" We decided that this is a book for all of us to read and then share with the leaders of companies and organizations. This book can help us and leaders determine what an individual can do to help other women and especially women of color to feel like they belong. The book can help leaders develop an inclusion mindset and to choose actions that will help their employees to be seen and heard and valued.



We want to celebrate women during Women's History Month on our own AAUW HHL Facebook page. If you have a woman you want to celebrate, please share with us on Facebook. Donna decided to celebrate her sister, Sharri Thomas, who has done so much in her life. She was the first female firefighter

in the City of East Cleveland. She was the first family member to own her own business. She ran for and won a seat on the Maple Heights City Council. She currently has a non-profit called Rivers in the Desert which offers a program called THE HEALING ROOM, a 12-week grief recovery program for families who have lost loved ones to tragedy and gun violence. Plus she was our speaker last year and told us about her experiences on running for office which was very inspiring and educational to those of us who may want to run for office.

I had been inspired by my cousin Phyllis who researched our family genealogy and wrote a book about it. Besides connecting all the relatives on the family tree she enriched it with facts about my relatives. For years I believed my Great Grandmother Annie Rasmusen was a pony express mail carrier. After reading a letter Phyllis wrote about Annie (her Grandmother) she remembers neighbors talking about her. "How she carried the mail in a horse and buggy – carried a small gun with her." She said she must have been a very independent lady. I looked up woman mail carriers, as she was a rural mail carrier in Illinois probably in the early 1900s. "After the introduction of rural free delivery in October 1896, women soon joined the ranks of carriers delivering mail to customers. In the 1899 Annual report of the Postmaster General,

First Assistant Postmaster General Perry S. Heat stated that, on at least two routes there are girl carriers, and they are as unflagging in their devotion to the service as the men and as efficient."

Maybe what was more impactful for me in my lifetime was my great grandmother died at age 36 from pneumonia and left her husband and three young boys to mourn her. Her obituary stated, "One week before her death she was taken with influenza, which developed into pneumonia. Loving hands could not stay the grim hand of the reaper, and her life passed out leaving another home without a mother." This was in December of 1918. Later when we were hearing all the news about the COVID pandemic, I learned from Cousin Phyllis' sister that my Great Grandmother had died from the Spanish Flu which was a pandemic that infected an estimated 500 million people globally. So all my life it seemed I worried about getting pneumonia, then I learned this about my Grandma Rasmusen. I certainly took the COVID pandemic seriously.

We've invited Janice Lombardo an End of Life Doula at the suggestion of one of our members, Kathe Mayer to speak with us this month. Ms. Lombardo has a program on Writing a Legacy Love Letter. Kathe said she is a wonderful presenter, she is exciting and worth listening to and participating with. I am hoping that writing these letters or even just listening to our speaker that persons can think about what their legacy is in this world and share it with their family. I had the privilege as a former social worker with the Euclid Senior Programs to visit older persons in their homes to get to know them or sign them up for home-delivered meals. Perhaps there were some family in the area they would have liked to see more often or have come visit, or maybe there were some unresolved issues they needed to address with family. I am hoping that the writing of a life letter or Legacy Love letter could lead to being closer to our families.

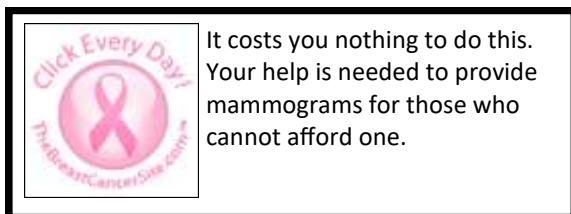


Diversity in Action

AAUW HHL has enriched its history of diversity by seeking members of diverse backgrounds, by attending plays and reading books that provide learning experiences and provoke discussion. We support and attend AAUW Ohio's programs and actions on diversity, intentionality, and inclusion.

We support opening membership to all who want to speak for our vision of Equity for All. Since 1881, AAUW has worked for equity—first, for education and economic parity of women. Realizing we cannot have equity without equity for *all*, AAUW updated its vision and its work to achieve it.

Become a member. We welcome you to join our branch of the national AAUW. Our events are all hybrid. If you are looking for a community of activists, join us. Email us at aauwhh@roadrunner.com.



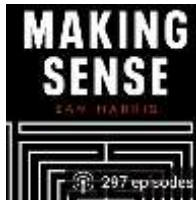
Membership—Phyllis; Public Policy—Kathe; Around NE Ohio District



Membership—Phyllis Benjamin

I suggest you listen to the Sam Harris podcast as Harris speaks with Yaroslav Trofimov about the War in Ukraine. They discuss many widespread false assumptions, among them that Russia would win a swift victory.

Trofimov is the chief foreign-affairs correspondent for The Wall Street Journal and the author of several books including *Faith at War*, *Siege of Mecca*, and most recently, *Our Enemies Will Vanish*. Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, and educated at New York University, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in international reporting in 2023, for his work on Ukraine, and in 2022, for his work on Afghanistan. His honors include an Overseas Press Club award for coverage of India as well as the Washington Institute gold medal for the best book on the Middle East. Some (about half an hour) of the interview is on YouTube. Here is the [link](#).



Phyllis

Public Policy—Kathe Mayer



Governor DeWine stated that the Department of Education ceases to exist and is now the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce based on the budget he signed in July. He put Chris Wooland in charge. This eliminates the current State Board of Education which had 11 elected members and 8 appointed by the governor.

This new Department of Education and Workforce becomes a cabinet level director position and puts the department under the Governor's office. As a result of concern about Education becoming directly under the governor a lawsuit was filed in Franklin Court of Common Pleas. Parents involved are afraid that having Education under the governor will eliminate the abilities of parents and general citizens to make their concerns known. The eliminated State Board of Education had times in their general meetings for the public to comment and have used those comments to improve education within the state. We shall continue to watch what happens here.

Kathe



Northeast Ohio Branch will meet with HHL on Wednesday, April 24 for a joint meeting entitled *The Power of Why* led by Lillian Evans of The College of Wooster.

Around Northeast Ohio District



Medina will meet March 22 to watch the movie *Equal Means Equal* and on April 25 for a program on Independent Living for Foster, how AAUW may be able to assist young women aging out of foster care and the issues they face.

Northeast Ohio Branch met in early March to view the art exhibit, *From Women XVII...Created by women, of women and about women*, in the Gallery at Lakeland Community College, 7700 Clocktower Drive, Kirtland. is celebrating Women's History Month with the 17th installment of "from WOMAN XVII...Created by women, of women and about women," which runs through March 24. The Gallery at Lakeland is on the first floor of Lakeland Community College's D-Building. There will be a closing reception from 1 to 3 p.m. on March 24, giving the public an opportunity to meet the artists.

AAUW Washington Update



March 7, 2024

Act — Take action on the most pressing policies

Equal Pay Day—March 12—is used to raise awareness around the gender pay gap and take action to combat pay inequities. It is appalling that women working full time still only make 84 cents per dollar paid to men—a pay gap that is significantly worse for many women of color and for women working part-time or seasonally. The Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 17/S. 728) would address several components of pay equity including ending use of salary history to determine wages, pay data collection, and retaliation protections for discussing wages.

- Help us urge Congress to support the Paycheck Fairness Act
- Contact your members of Congress
- Write a Letter to the Editor
- Engage online (Join the social media storm on March 12 at 2 p.m. ET)

The gender pay gap impacts all women in nearly every profession, at all education levels, and worsens as we get older. This cannot be allowed to continue!

Learn — Dig deeper into the issues that matter

While the Equal Pay Act of 1963 made it illegal for employers to pay unequal wages to men and women who perform substantially equal work, there is still more to be done to address this and the uneven impact of the pay gap on women on color. On average, a Black woman working full-time, year-round earns only 69 cents for every dollar paid to a non-Hispanic white man. For Latinas, that number drops to 57 cents. While the reasons for the pay gap are complex – including gender and racial discrimination, workplace harassment, occupational segregation, and a lack of workplace policies that support family caregiving – there are steps that can be taken to eliminate it.

Pay transparency can help address gender and racial pay gaps by preventing both unconscious bias and outright discrimination that skews compensation. AAUW's analysis has shown that the gender wage gap tends to be narrower in job sectors where wages are transparent. As of December

2023, ten states, the District of Columbia and several cities have enacted salary transparency laws. The Salary Transparency Act (H.R. 1599) would require employers across the country to provide salary ranges for jobs to applicants and employees regardless of where they live.

The federal government recently implemented a new measure to reduce racial and gender pay inequities for federal employees by banning the use of current or past pay when determining the salaries of new federal employees. AAUW applauds the proposed rule to extend this practice to federal contractors along with a provision to post salary ranges in job listings.

The importance of having data to help identify and eliminate gender and racial pay discrimination cannot be understated. AAUW continues to urge the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to move quickly to reinstate the EEO-1 pay data collection as a way to help identify and eliminate pay discrimination and close the wage gap nationwide. As we recognize Equal Pay Day on March 12, we must also recognize the need for a comprehensive policy approach at both the state and federal level in order to fully advance pay equity for all women.

Engage — Share the important work we're doing

From the moment women graduate from college, most face a gender pay gap — which widens as they age. This makes it even harder to pay off their larger share of student debt. AAUW advocates for policy solutions to help current and future borrowers pay off their debt and make attaining a college degree more affordable for all students.

In response to a call from AAUW and coalition partners, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) held a fourth negotiated rulemaking session on student debt relief on February 22 and 23. Before the session, ED released proposed regulations to provide critical relief for borrowers experiencing financial hardship. Final rules are expected in May 2024.

The AAUW-endorsed Codifying SAVE Plan Act (H.R. 6593) would protect the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) student loan repayment plan under federal law to prevent any future rollbacks of the program. The SAVE plan provides a

(Continued on page 9)

AAUW Washington Update



(Continued from page 8)

more affordable income-driven repayment option, including a path to debt cancellation for eligible borrowers. On February 21, the Biden administration announced \$1.2 billion of student debt cancellation for over 150,000 borrowers enrolled in the SAVE repayment plan.

AAUW and many education-focused organizations have opposed the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act (H.R. 6585). While the bill would allow federal Pell Grants to be used for short-term education and job training programs, it lacks protections from potential abuse by for-profit program providers and risks supporting low-quality programs. AAUW and coalition partners sent a letter to Congress opposing the bill.

AAUW joined fellow members of the Gender Equity Coalition in a letter to President Biden calling for commitments to gender justice issues—including women’s economic security, access to education, voting rights, reproductive freedom, and more—in the 2024 State of the Union address on March 7.

Congress negotiated a third extension of funding for federal programs through March 8 and 22. AAUW joined coalition partners in a letter urging Congress to reject all policy riders in Fiscal Year 24 appropriations bills that would prohibit federal agencies from funding diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility programs.

Join AAUW on March 20 at 2:30 p.m. ET for “Busting Myths & Enhancing Support: Advancing Workplace Success for Women,” a virtual panel discussion of the critical importance of work-life policies and strategies to advance women’s economic security. This AAUW-led event is part of the 68th NGO Committee on the Status of Women Forum.



2024 NCCWSL Registration Now Open!

AAUW’s National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park, May 30 through June 1, 2024. [Registration is now open!](#)

Did you know making a branch contribution to, or registering a student for NCCWSL helps fulfill your your Five-Star Branch goals?

The conference begins Thursday afternoon with a welcome address and networking event. Workshops and panels begin Friday, May 31, ending with the Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony and reception that evening. We close out NCCWSL with a Saturday morning session guaranteed to delight! New for 2024, NCCWSL features a STEM track of sessions, designed to engage young women interested in STEM throughout the conference.

We’re challenging our attendees to step out of their comfort zones to be bold, to be fearless, and to be transformed. We look forward to working with you to identify amazing college women student leaders to who should [attend NCCWSL](#), and we appreciate your tremendous support of this program!

Open Membership Vote and Member Civility

As we prepare for the next open membership vote this spring there are several resources on the AAUW website that can help in your branch or state discussions. The [open membership toolkit](#) includes a PowerPoint and talking points on eliminating the degree requirement for membership and the newly added [civility and member responsibilities information](#) could be useful to highlight in your branch and state newsletters.

AAUW is also engaged in several in-person parallel events as part of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Forum:

US Economic Inequality:

The Equal Rights Amendment – Catalyst for Change

March 11, 2024 at 2:30pm ET
Church Center for the United Nations
8th Fl., 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY

Financial Education for University Women

March 18, 2024 at 10:30am ET
Church Center for the United Nations
Drew Room, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY