

ERIE PRESSIBLE May 2024

Spring banquet set at Nick's Place

Reservations due by May 6

Erie Branch will hold its Annual Meeting and Banquet Monday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. at Nick's Place, 12250 Edinboro Road, Edinboro.

The event will feature the election of the new 2024-25 slate of officers, conferral of awards and the presentation of this year's scholarship winners!

Awards will again be presented to both non-traditional women students and new Americans.

This year's menu choices are:

*Rosemary Chicken with Mornay sauce
Roast Sirloin of beef
Eggplant parmesan with penne pasta and
marinara sauce*

The sides include a mixed spring salad, oven roasted dill red potatoes, and green beans with mushrooms. Tres Leches will be our dessert.

The cost of dinner is \$30 and paid reservations are due by May 6. They may be made online via our website, aauperie.org or by sending your check along with your entrée choice to Sarah Larson, 1214 W. 39th St. Erie, PA 16509.

Please let Sarah know if you have any dietary restrictions.

2024-25 Slate of branch officer nominees

The following members have been nominated to serve as officers for Erie Branch next year:

President -
Asuman Baskan
President Elect -
Sharmin Khundker
Membership VP -
Loretto Bellicini
Membership VP Elect -
Lorraine Wellington
Program VP -
Ellen DiPlacido
Recording Secretary -
Matasha Murrell Jones
Finance Officer -
Barbara Hutzelman

Members will vote on the slate at the May 13 annual meeting and banquet.

Plan to Vote!

AAUW National has put a by-law change on open membership up for a vote. Balloting takes place April 3 through May 15.

Open membership means that an education requirement would no longer be required for AAUW membership.

President's Message

Recently I attended the AAUW Pennsylvania Conference in Harrisburg. Titled "Evolution of the Fight: Looking Back to Look Forward," the conference was focused on the history of AAUW as well as current priorities and positive changes we look forward to in the future.

The overarching message was that our world has experienced great change and that AAUW has consistently kept pace with relevant changes of its own. However, to quote Dr. Cindy Hall, President of AAUW Pennsylvania, "Our core beliefs and values have remained steady."



Photo by Rebecca Gardner, Keystone

Erie Branch President Loretta Seigley addresses the AAUW-PA conference in Harrisburg.

Speakers with diverse backgrounds and positions focused on state and national priorities of particular interest to AAUW. Specific concerns relevant to branches, such as membership building and strategies to encourage members to accept leadership positions within their branches, were also discussed.

A panel of presidents representing six branches which have been in existence for 100 years or more discussed how our branches have responded to change over the years and how we have remained relevant and strong advocates for women within our communities.

As a panelist, I was quite proud to speak about Erie Branch's community advocacy and outreach efforts as well as our annual Scholarship Awards.

Meeting so many women from across Pennsylvania with likeminded goals and hearing about creative initiatives and advocacy efforts was inspiring. The atmosphere was certainly high energy! I left the Conference with great enthusiasm and a desire to continue building on AAUW Erie's positive momentum.

I am looking forward to seeing AAUW Erie Branch members at our Annual Meeting and Banquet on May 13th. It will be a great opportunity for us to congratulate our Branch Award recipients, our scholarship recipients, and new board members. We can also celebrate our AAUW Erie Branch with pride!

New culinary connections study group being planned for next year

A small group of branch members has been meeting to plan events for a new study group to be called Food and Friends.

Sharing food with others is more than just satisfying one's hunger. It's an essential element in our cultural history that gives us the opportunity to express such things as love, family, community and tradition. Sharing food strengthens social bonds and diverse cuisine enriches our lives.

Our new study group will explore ways in which we celebrate that cultural phenomenon. We plan to offer such experiences as:

A Food Tasting Ethnic Experience,
A Bus Wine Tour,
A Chef-led Cooking Class,
A Cookie Exchange,
An outreach project: Feeding the Hungry
Bread Making: History and Traditions
Those Elusive Herbs and How to Use Them
and much more.

Our first event will be in September. Information on the September Tasting and how to sign up for the October Wine tour will be detailed in the June *Pressible*.

Watch for details and participation information next month and in upcoming issues of the *Pressible*.

We hope you will join us on those experiences which interest you as we undertake this new and exciting venture.

Submitted by the planning group: Asuman Baskan, Loretto Bellicini, Barbara Hutzelman, Anne Marie Kumhera, Karen Miller and Loretta Seigley.

Your dues are due by June 30!

Dues for fiscal year 2024/25 may be paid now and are payable by June 30th.

Annual dues are \$105. Life members pay \$33, Honorary Life Members pay \$0.

If you wish to receive a paper copy of the *Pressible*, please add \$10 to help defray the cost of printing and mailing. This does not apply to Honorary Life Members.

Make checks payable to "AAUW Erie Branch Inc." and mail to Branch Finance Officer, PO Box 9264, Erie PA 16505, bring to the May dinner, or pay online at www.aauwerie.org.

Due to the recently enacted rolling membership year by national, you may have been notified of a different due date by national. If so, please notify the treasurer, Barbara Hutzelman, 814-881-7339, barbhutz@yahoo.com.

By Barbara Hutzelman

Public Policy Highlights

A Year of Action

AAUW's salary negotiation programs have trained over 197K women to negotiate their salaries and benefits to date. AAUW's in-person return of NCCWSL reached nearly 500 students from 170 campuses. AAUW's Two-Minute Activist network sent more than 47,000 messages to elected officials this year in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act, urging Congress to pass paid family and sick leave bills, advocating for safe and equitable schools for all students, and calling for the Equal Rights Amendment to be recognized as the 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

AAUW's tireless Lobby Corps resumed visits to Capitol Hill, visiting more than 150 congressional offices to advocate for legislation that uplifts and advance women's equity and access to opportunity.

In 2023 AAUW co-sponsored the "Not One More Year" march, marking the 100th anniversary of the Equal Rights Amendment's (ERA) introduction in the House of Representatives. We also became a founding member of the ERA Coalition's National Strategy Task Force.

Going forward, AAUW will be a strategic thought partner in developing and shaping coalition campaigns, messaging, and initiatives, leveraging collective resources, to raise public awareness with the purpose of getting the ERA published and fully enacted.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's denial of student debt relief in June, AAUW hosted a series of policy-focused webinars on women's economic security, including Delivering on Debt Relief: The Fight for Racial and Gender Justice with U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and My student loans are due. Now what? with The Institute of Student Loan Advisors (TISLA).

For years, AAUW advocated for the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act—a law that requires employers to provide basic accommodations to protect workers' ability to provide for themselves and their families without compromising their health or pregnancies — and it went into effect in 2023.

The same year, we organized over 1,600 comments for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in support of final rules that will guide enforcement of the law in a way that is strong, comprehensive, and inclusive.

By Ellen DiPlacido, Public Policy Chair

Want to get involved?

Stay engaged this year with national's Two-Minute Activist tool!

You can also check out letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs on national's website to learn more about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts.

Hagen History Center a hit in March

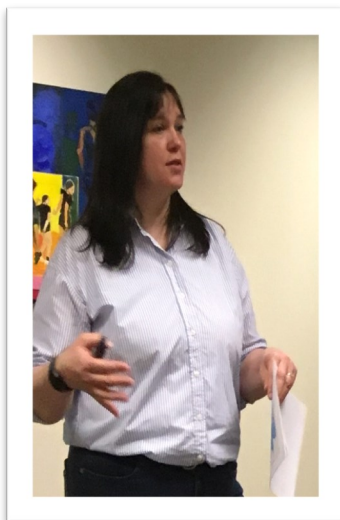
Branch members enjoyed an overview of the Hagen History Center's newest exhibit, "The Story of Us" in March.

The exhibit features hundreds of photos, artifacts, interactives and 3-D displays spanning events from the beginnings of Erie County through current times.

Our guide was Project Manager Pam Parker, (top, right).

The 3,000-square-foot exhibit was recognized by @Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations as one of the winners of its 2024 Special Achievement Awards.





Crime Victim Center’s services drew focus at the April branch meeting

Amy Blackman, (left), Co-Assistant Director and Director of Preventive Education at the Crime Victim Center of Erie County (left) addressed Erie Branch members at the April meeting.

Members learned that the agency focuses on changing the impact of crime through counseling, prevention education and advocacy.

The center was established in 1973 as the Erie County Rape Crisis Center, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting sexual assault victims and their families and friends.

In 1986, Victim Witness Services was established for victims and witnesses of other violent crimes, their families and friends. Offices are located in: Erie, Girard, Union City, Edinboro, Corry, and North East.

AAUW gathered attention in the news

From podcasts to social media to leading media outlets, we got the word out to everyone about the importance of our cause. This year's media mentions included the Washington Post, ABC News, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Miami Herald and Diverse Issues in Higher Ed.

Branch Study Groups

Book Discussion

The AAUW book group will meet on Thursday, May 2, at 1 p.m. at the Millcreek Branch of the Erie County Public Library. Sarah Larson will be leading the discussion about the novel, "Mad Honey," by Jodi Picoult.

if you need a vegan burger. Spouses and children are invited!
RSVP to Edie at edie_cultu@yahoo.com

Gourmet

Gourmet will meet Friday, May 24, at 5 p.m. at Outback Steakhouse, 2076 Interchange Road. Please RSVP as soon as possible to Nickie Azicri, 814-835-3780 or speedyzeek8@gmail.com

Global Friends

Global Friends will hold its annual picnic on Monday, May 20, at 6 p.m. at the Glenwood Park Picnic area behind the zoo. Please bring a dish to share, hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Let Edie know

Politalk

Politalk will meet on Thursday, May 16, at 2 p.m. at Asuman's home.

MAY 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Book Club 1 p.m. at Millcreek Library	3	4
6 Board mtg. 6:30 p.m. Zoom	7	8	9	10	11
13 Annual banquet 5:30 p.m. at Nick's Place	14	15	16 Politalk 2 p.m. at Asuman's	17	18
20 Global Friends 6 p.m. Glenwood Picnic Grove	21	22	23	24 Gourmet 5 p.m. at Outback Steakhouse	25
27	28	29	30	31	



Erie Branch ♦ Founded in 1902

P.O. Box 9264 Erie PA 16505

AAUW's Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through education, philanthropy, and research. By joining AAUW you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

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