

**Lake Oswego Branch Officers
2022-2023
Elected Officers**

President

Catharine Hojem (541) 240-1291

Program Coordinator

Marge Ransom (503) 530-9810

Membership Vice President

Stephanie Wagner (503) 803-7708

Secretary

Jeanne-Marie Pierrelouis
(202) 445-4976

Finance Vice President

Diana Ricks (503) 858-7481

Immediate Past President

Mary Pat Silveira (615) 804-6253

Appointed Officers

AAUW Fund

Molly Divine (503) 460-7103

Communications/Governance

Jane Taft (503) 709-3185

Courtesy

Penny Hansen (971) 221-7765

Diversity Officer

Marty Maharg (503) 908-1984

Education Committee

Diana Ricks (503) 858-7481

Hospitality

Charlene Vojtilla (503) 720-0904

Inter-Branch Council

Marty Maharg (503) 908-1984

Interest Group Coordinator

Charlene Vojtilla (503) 720-0904

Newsletter Co-Editors

Cathy Croghan Alzner (503) 320-6282
Kris Schultz (503) 621-8602
loaauwnewsletter@gmail.

Public Information

Karen Rottink (503) 636-9755

Public Policy

Starting the New Year with Something New: Volunteer Month



Instead of meeting as usual at Heritage House this January, we are asking members to volunteer some of their time and energy to help a deserving local organization. Our efforts will honor the spirit of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday and Service Act, which expanded the mission of the holiday into a day of community service.

Based on member input, we are focusing on several organizations that welcome volunteer teams *and* have a wide variety of jobs and service projects to offer volunteers. These organizations include Ronald McDonald House, Portland Backpack, With Love Oregon, and Dress for Success. Each of these, in its own way, makes a truly significant difference for those in need of our help and support.

Further information is provided in the longer article that follows. Please read carefully to see which organizations and activities are of interest to you, then contact the team leader for further details and scheduling. All members are invited to share their thoughts and experiences with volunteer activities at the branch meeting, via Zoom, on January 28.

Connections

Catharine Hojem



Connections January 2023

Catharine Hojem

Happy New Year!!

On December 11th, many of us attended our annual Christmas Gala, and if the noise level in the meeting room was any indicator, we all had a very good time. Thanks to Marty Maharg's generosity and her husband's group's efforts we enjoyed a live saxophone quartet. Thank you also to Charlene Vojtilla and Marge Ransom, who again outdid themselves organizing the event and making a festive display of delicious goodies and Christmas decorations. The wine table was a favorite stop enroute to the wonderful Christmas music.

Each month I have provided information about the Board, issues we've discussed and actions taken. Even though this is clearly January, and the start of a new year, I will say this is really the month of *May*. I would like to begin a new year with a positive outlook, but sadly, the reality we face *may* not be so rosy.

- While we have enjoyed programs at Heritage House and our long history with them, continued attendance there currently is not sustainable. Their rates have increased, and our donations have not, leaving us with few options. A venue change *may* be necessary. A committee was formed to consider other options in Lake Oswego. Please contact either Diana Ricks or me if you have suggestions.
- We *may* be creating a new interest group which will focus on community service. Several members have signed up to participate in the Martin Luther King Day of service. Maintaining service is beneficial not only for the community but also helps to keep Branch members connected. It additionally *may* attract new members.
- Regarding the pandemic, it is unclear where we will be. We *may* have to decide, month by month, whether to meet in person or via ZOOM. We also *may* be able to offer a hybrid option.
- We *may* be in more trouble than we think. Branches across the state are having difficulty recruiting members to take leadership roles, and we are no exception. Some branches had to discontinue because of this growing challenge. We have a number of leadership vacancies coming up, including the

President, Secretary, Programs, Public Policy, and possibly AAUW Funds. I have not yet polled each outgoing Board member, so there could be more.

So many of the women either elected or appointed to the Board have served for years in a variety of capacities. A small group has kept this branch viable for a long time, and it is understandable that several feel it is time to step aside. I am asking each of you to please give a Board position careful thought. Thank you.

January Volunteer Activities

Charlene Vojtilla

As we honor Dr. Martin Luther King and serve local community organizations, below is a list of those the Branch will be aiding in January. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the team leader listed below.

With Love, Tigard: Thursday, January 19, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Leader: Marge Ransom

With Love supports Portland area foster children and their families. They need volunteers at their Tigard facility. Typical jobs include inspecting, sorting, and inventorying clothing and other donated items, then readying items to give to foster families. Foster families frequently have little time to prepare for a child in need, so With Love is an important resource for them.

Portland Backpack Food Sack Packing: Saturday, January 14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Leader: Charlene Vojtilla

PDX Backpack fills and distributes 1,000 food sacks to schools each week. We will meet at Charlene's home to pack 20-25 food sacks for PDX Backpack. Each volunteer is requested to purchase 20-25 of one or more items on the food list (such as soup, fruit cups, granola bars, instant oatmeal) and bring them to Charlene's, where we will pack them into individual food sacks. Charlene will serve volunteers a light lunch.

Portland Backpack Card Party: Week of January 9-13

Leader: Anne Redman

PDX Backpack also includes in the food sacks little love notes expressing belonging and encouragement. This is a perfect and easy arts and crafts activity. Simple messages such as "*You matter,*" "*Have a good lunch,*" "*You make the world a better place,*" "*Today is your day,*" "*You're amazing just the way you are*" add cheer to each lunch sack. Materials will be provided. Location to be determined.

Ronald McDonald House East: January 9 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Leader: molly divine

Ronald McDonald House provides comfort and relief to families whose child is in the hospital. "Meals from the Heart" is a program that prepares dinners for residents. Molly and a team of four volunteers will meet at the Portland East Ronald McDonald House to cook dinner for the families currently staying at the house. A specific menu and recipes will be provided and volunteers are assigned items to buy and bring with them. Volunteers will

prepare the meal and eat with the families.

Ronald McDonald House Day of Service: Wednesday, January 25, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Leader: Stephanie Wagner

A group of four to eight volunteers is needed at the South Portland Waterfront location. Projects typically include organizing, cleaning, filling the toy closet, and other tasks to help make families feel at home.

Dress for Success Clothing Organization: Tuesday, January 24, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Leader: Charlene Vojtilla

The mission of Dress for Success Oregon is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and career development tools to help women thrive. They need Clothing Organizers to assist with processing donations of clothing, shoes and accessories. Please lend your sense of style to this worthwhile organization! Note: Depending on volunteers' schedules, the date can be changed to any Tuesday or Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon or any Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and the Pump Act

On December 22, 2022, in a seventy-three to twenty-four bi-partisan vote, the Senate passed the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) and soon will become law.

This law will allow pregnant women to provide for their families without compromising their health or pregnancies thus providing a safer future for all workers. It is one step towards providing paid leave and other family-friendly policies that this country desperately needs.

This law will:

- Give pregnant workers access to basic accommodations like carrying a water bottle and taking bathroom breaks.
- Clarify that it is unlawful to discriminate against pregnant workers by forcing them out of their jobs unnecessarily or denying them reasonable accommodations.
- Prohibit employers from retaliating against pregnant workers who request accommodations.
- Prohibit employers from withholding promotions and/or refusing to hire a person who is pregnant. Furthermore, a person is not required to tell an employer if she is pregnant.

Tucked into the PWFA is the separate Pump Act that expands protections for mothers who are nursing their babies. "Put together, these provisions are aimed at addressing holes in existing law that have allowed employers in the United States to force pregnant and nursing workers to choose between a

paycheck and their health, advocates say. The rules also come as the pandemic has forced employers, and the public, to reexamine how child care disproportionately affects working mothers, many of whom struggled to stay in their jobs or reenter the workforce since the pandemic upended the U.S. economy."¹

To help pass these laws, AAUW advocates wrote countless letters to elected officials, met in-person with policymakers, rallied at the US Capitol and posted on social media. Gloria Blackwell, AAUW Chief Executive expressed her thanks “for all the ways you’re [AAUW members] making a better world for women and girls. I am grateful beyond words.”²

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/legal/7-things-pregnancy-discrimination/>

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/legal/7-things-pregnancy-discrimination/>

<https://twitter.com/aauwgloriab>

Public Policy

Mary Pat Silveira

Several new Oregon laws went into effect on January 1, 2023. Of particular note are the following:

Senate Bill 1574: Ensure Proper Medical Forensic Care for Survivors of Sexual Assault

1

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/12/30/omnibus-pregnant-breastfeeding-congress/>

Survivors of sexual assault seek care from Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and Sexual Assault Examiners in hospitals across Oregon. SB 1574 ensures that that all evidence from the hospital exams are included in the SAFE Kit prior to transferring it to law enforcement.

House Bill 4002: Farm Worker Overtime

Both state and federal law establish a maximum hour requirement of 40 hours per week and require employers pay one and one-half times the regular rate for all hours worked over 40 hours. However, agricultural workers were exempt from both the state and federal maximum hour requirement laws and therefore were not entitled to overtime pay. This inequity was accentuated by the intense manual labor, extreme heat and chemical exposure that farmworkers often face. HB 4002 remedies this inequity by phasing in overtime limits over several years, starting at 55 hours in 2023 and reaching 40 by 2027.

Senate Bill 1586: Protections from Inappropriate Nondisclosure Agreements

The Legislature passed the Workplace Fairness Act (WFA) in 2019. Under the WFA, a private employer must adopt a written policy outlining procedures and practices for reducing and preventing discrimination and sexual assault. The WFA also prohibits employers from entering into a nondisclosure agreement

2 <https://twitter.com/aauwgloriab>

(NDA) as a condition of employment. It was brought to the attention of the Legislature that a loophole was being exploited that was effectively continuing the use of NDAs in inappropriate situations. SB 1586 closes this loophole. The law extends the prohibition regarding NDAs to cover former employees of private and public employers and clarifies that the prohibition covers current employees. The measure permits otherwise prohibited NDAs under specified circumstances and declares prohibited NDAs to be void and unenforceable.

Senate Bill 1515: Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefit Year Clarification

In 2019, the legislature passed HB 2005, establishing a Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance Program providing employees with paid leave when they have medical issues, a new family member, or need safe leave. The current statutory language makes it difficult to identify a single paid year for workers with multiple employers. SB 1515 updates statutory language to create a single benefit year across employers.

House Bill 4113: Worker Compensation for Firefighters with Ovarian Cancer

Oregon workers' compensation laws establish that certain cancers, including oral and male reproductive cancers, are presumed to be a compensable occupational disease for non-volunteer firefighters who have been on the job for at least five years. HB 4113 adds bladder and female reproductive cancers to this list.

Senate Bill 1555: Universal Home Visiting Reimbursement

Senate Bill 526 established the Universal Home Visiting program in Oregon. Home Visit programs have shown positive impacts on reducing incidences of child abuse and neglect, improvement in birth outcomes, improvement in school readiness, and increased high school graduation rates for others who participate. SB 1555 clarifies the Oregon Health Authorities responsibility to support local newborn home visiting services and provide reimbursement for these services.

House Bill 4031: Establishing Diversity Goals for Oregon Schools

To promote equality and representation in our schools, House Bill 4031 creates a goal to have the percentage of diverse employees employed by the Department of Education match the percentage of diverse students in our public schools.

House Bill 4133: Online Voter Registration

Since 2010, Oregon has made it easy for citizens with a driver's license to register to vote online. Before the passage of HB 4133, eligible voters who did not possess a driver's license did not have access to this method of online registration. This bill makes it easier for Oregonians who do not have a driver's license to register to vote online.

AAUW Funds molly divine

Your contributions to the AAUW Fund help advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy not only in the United States but also throughout the world.



Courtesy Representative

AAUW's CEO Gloria Blackwell and her staff participate in many organizations and activities, a few of which are the White House Gender Policy Council weekly call, the United Nations entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, White House Equal Pay Summit with President and Mrs. Biden, and Speaker Pelosi's Women's History Month Celebration. Additionally, their research papers are used to inform members and to back up AAUW's lobbying efforts.

Penny Hansen is our Courtesy representative. She acknowledges members who have a life event to celebrate, who are ill and or have had surgery, and who have experienced the death of a loved one. If you know a member who would appreciate a kind note or card, please contact Penny by text at (971) 221-7765.

In 2022, members of the Lake Oswego branch donated \$785 directly to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund, and the Lake Oswego branch contributed \$1,000, for a total of \$1,785.

Maybe we can top this during 2023? You can donate throughout the year and your contributions will be well used to support AAUW efforts. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me, mollydivine@gmail.com

Thank you for your continuing support of AAUW.



Chocolate Truffle-making Class for Eight Participants

All proceeds donated to the LO AAUW
Scholarship Fund
\$50 per person

Saturday, February 4, 2023
11:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Calling all Chocolate Lovers!

Join Charlene Vojtilla to learn how to make chocolate truffles. These classic chocolate confections are divine treats—for yourself, as a Valentine or hostess gift, or as a dessert at your next dinner party.

This hands-on class will be held at Charlene's home in Newberg. You will learn the steps and a timeline to easily make several dozen truffles over a weekend. You'll also enjoy a light lunch, wine, dessert, and a comparative chocolate tasting.

You will take home a dozen truffles you made yourself in a handmade box.

Contact Charlene at
charjoy8@gmail.com to enroll.

Yesterday is History,
Tomorrow is a Mystery,
Today is a Gift.

Live each day with an
Attitude of Gratitude
and for you may 2023 be a



Interest Group Happenings

Interpretive Books

3rd Thursday at 9:30am

Date: January 19

Book: *Matrix* by Lauren Groff

Contact Connie Irwin

irwinconnie44@gmail.com

Lunch Bunch

3rd Tuesday at 11:30am

Date: January 17

Location: Nicoletta's Table
Lake Oswego

This event is RSVP only via an invitation email that will be sent out in advance of each meeting. Contact Marge Ransom (wrandmr68@yahoo.com) or Charlene Vojtilla (charjoy8@gmail.com).

Murder by the Book

2nd Wednesday at noon

Date: January 11

Book: *Edge of Evil* by JA Jance

Location: Home of Stephanie Carter

Contact Jane Taft taft.jane@gmail.com

or Stephanie Carter

secarter1@gmail.com

Non-Fiction Books

2nd Monday at 11:00am

Date: January 9

Book: *Aloha Rodeo: Three Hawaiian Cowboys, the World's Greatest Rodeo and a Hidden History of the American West* by David Wolman and Julian Smith

Meeting on Zoom

Contact Mary Pat Silveira for more information mpsilveira@usa.net

Tuesday Books

4th Tuesday at 11:00am

Date: January 24

Book: *Clark and Division* by Naomi Hirahara

Location: Szechuan Kitchen
15450 SW Boones Ferry Road

Contact Lynda Bigler

libigler@easystreet.net

Thursday Evening Books

4th Thursday at 7:00pm

Date: January 26

Book: *The Spiral Staircase* by Karen Armstrong

Meeting on Zoom

Contact Suzanne Kaveckis,

smkaveckis@icloud.com

Public Policy

3rd Friday at 11:00am

Meeting to be held on Zoom

Date: January 20

Delightful Dining

Date: February 25 6:00 pm

Location: Home of Penny Hansen
featuring Cozy Winter Soups.

Spouses are welcome!

For more information, contact Jane Taft

taft.jane@gmail.com

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6	7
8	9 Non-Fiction Books	10	11 Murder by the Book	12	13	14 MLK Day of Service
15	16 MLK Day Holiday 	17 Lunch Bunch	18	19 Interpretive Books	20 Public Policy	21
22	23	24 Tuesday Books	25	26 Thursday Evening Books	27	28
29	30	31 				

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting	8 Murder by the Book	9	10	11 Branch Meeting
12	13 Non-Fiction Books	14 	15	16 Interpretive Books	17 Public Policy & Advocacy	18
19	20	21 Lunch Bunch	22	23 Thursday Evening Books	24	25 Delightful Dining
26	27	28 Tuesday Books				