



AAUW-Livonia, MI

# Communiqué



September 2022

Volume 52 No. 1

## September General Meeting

In-Person

### The FAYGO Story

with Joe Grimm - MSU Professor of Journalism  
author of "The FAYO Book"

September 20, 2022 at 7:00pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
34567 Seven Mile Road  
(Between Newburgh and Farmington Roads)

We're back - join us for an interesting look at the story of this much beloved Detroit product, its history and the loyalty between Faygo and Detroiters. We plan to have Faygo Pop and Better Made Potato Chips as our snacks. Joe says there will be lots to learn and we may even have a sing along - you know . . .

*"Comic books and rubber bands; climb into the tree top; Fallin' down and holdin' hands; Tricycles and red pop. . . Remember when you were a kid? Well, part of you still is; And that's why we make Faygo"*

At this meeting we will also officially elect Lynn O'Neil as a co-president and Carol Symanns as our Treasurer/Financial officer. See you there!

**REMEMBER THIS MEETING BEGINS AT 7:00pm**

## BOARD REPORT

At its September 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting the board approved the Branch's 2021-22 budget. The budget is posted on our website and summarized below.

The Board discussed leadership, programming, recruiting and fundraising as we move into a post-Covid world and the need for input from all members - ideas and involvement.

We are excited to get back to in-person meetings - masking is recommended but not required by the Church.

As required by our Policy Guidelines the Board reviewed its policy guidelines. National now only requires that a Administrative Officer (President) and a Financial Officer (Treasurer) need to be elected - other officer positions can be appointed as needed by the Board. We have been discussing how we need to adjust our Policy to clarify the AAUW allowance of 'Appointed' officers as part of the voting board. It now reads:

'Per the AAUW Bylaws the Livonia Branch Board voting members are Elected Officers, any appointed officers, Area Interest Chairs and Standing Committee Chairs. Whenever possible, it is recommended that Board members shall not serve more than six consecutive years on the Board of Directors. Annually the President reports to AAUW an administrative and financial contact for the Branch.'

## 2022-23 BRANCH BUDGET REPORT

Per our Bylaws, a board approved budget is presented at the September general meeting and is posted on the website. At their September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board approved a balanced budget for 2022-23. We have summarized the Board approved budget here. The full budget is available on the website or can be emailed or US Mailed to you for the asking.

The budget projects \$10,840 in income and expenses. We had 92 members eligible to renew; 71 renewed and 1 member who had not renewed in 2022 rejoined us for 2023. Bringing our membership to 72. As you know only \$11 of your AAUW dues stay at the branch. The remaining \$79 is paid by us as dues to National and State AAUW. Your local dues help to pay for our speakers, the Communiqué, meeting room donation, the directory, membership recruiting, other branch operating costs and donations to education and equity mission goals. In no way, does the \$11 paid by each member (\$792 in 2022- 23) cover all branch expenses. **Fundraisers are necessary** for us to cover operating expenses and also cover Branch donations to our education and equity activities. Last year our budget for these donations was \$6,050. Thanks to our past fundraisers, in particular the auction, and our conservative expenses we have a sufficient reserve and check book balance to allow us to take this year to re-engage our activities, fundraising and recruiting activities. At this point last year, we had \$8,500 in reserve and \$26,106 in the check book; this year we still have the \$8,500 reserve but only \$24,022 in the check book; which suggests that if our membership does not grow, we will continue to spend down the check book balance and need to use the reserve. We need to increase membership and fundraising efforts.

The Board recognizes that covid complicated and still impacts our recruiting and ability to immediately capitalize on new and energized fundraisers. So, again, we budgeted conservatively and will need to draw from our check book balance and "reserve" fund to cover costs. We will use this year to plan new events and we ask members to step up and help us design future replacement fundraising activities.

Carol Symanns, Treasurer



## Livonia Michigan Branch

### Co-Presidents:

Lynn O'Neil 734-462-2452  
TBD

### Co-Membership Vice Presidents:

Deborah O'Neil 734-421-6819  
TBD

### Program Vice President:

Deborah O'Neil 734-421-6819

### Treasurer:

Carol Symanns 734 788-7121

### Secretary:

Sandy Ralston 734-464-6761

### Communiqué Editor:

Charlie Mahoney 248 474-0905

### Scholarship Chair:

Betty Collier 734-425-5312

### AAUW Mission:

Advancing Equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, philanthropy and research.

### AAUW Funds:

Provide grants to advance education, research and self-development for women fostering equity and positive societal change; and work to serve the greatest need of the organization.

### Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF):

Works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

### Membership Requirements:

AAUW is open to any graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified educational institution.

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

### AAUW Livonia Branch Scholarship Fund:

Established at Schoolcraft Foundation in 2014 to provide scholarships to women attending SCC. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Branch Website: [Livonia-MI.AAUW.net](http://Livonia-MI.AAUW.net)

Password for Membership Section is  
Communiqué



## President's Corner

A warm welcome to all of you on our 52nd. year as an organization. It will be an interesting year with women's rights on the line. I had the opportunity to attend the Women's Equality Day Luncheon on August 26. It was well attended and our own, Laura Callow, gave a wonderful history of the Equal Rights Amendment. Women have been working on this since 1923 and it is still not part of the constitution! To see a sample of AAUW's resolution for the ERA, please check out [aauwmi.org](http://aauwmi.org) and click on the president's packet. Scroll down and you will find the resolution. We must urge our legislators to approve this amendment!

On the Michigan AAUW website, you can also read about our new state president, Sheila Blair and other information about what AAUW supports. Please take time to check it out.

I look forward to seeing you on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM for what should be an interesting history of Faygo Pop.

As in 2021, we will have elections for our officers at the September General Meeting. I have agreed to continue as president; but both our current Treasurer, Carol Symanns, and Secretary, Sandy Ralston, who have been serving in their officer positions for multiple years would like to have members step up to learn their roles and take on these positions.

PLEASE be courageous and help - Let me know if you are interested. We need your help to continue addressing the AAUW mission.

Remember this meeting will be in-person at 7:00pm

*Lynn O'Neil* - Co-President

**2022-2023 DIRECTORIES** - were compiled in August 2022 once renewal applications were complete - if you have any updates in your directory entry, please get the new information to Charlie Mahoney.

**NOTE** - Ever mindful of costs, again this year the budget, our monthly written treasurer's report & general meeting minutes will not be handed out at the general meeting. They are presented to the Board monthly and are posted on our website. A few copies of each will be at the general meeting for your review. Any member wishing to have a copy of any of these reports should visit the website or contact the treasurer, Carol Symanns or Secretary, Sandy Ralston for a copy. Copies of the Branch Bylaws and Policies are on the website. If you would like a copy, contact Parliamentarian Fran Saenz.

**While AAUW Livonia Branch does not share its member information beyond publication of the Directory which is provided to each member, National AAUW may share member contact information with like-minded organizations. To prevent the sharing of YOUR contact information, you need to notify National AAUW at 800 326-2289 or by an email to [records@AAUW.org](mailto:records@AAUW.org).**

**Use of the AAUW Livonia Branch Directory information, The Communiqué or member email distribution lists for other than AAUW Livonia Branch business must be pre-approved by the President and/or Board of Directors.**

# “Salute to Women” Nomination Form 2022

Annually the Livonia Branch of AAUW honors a woman whose efforts reflect the goals of the AAUW and whose contributions enhance the quality of life. This woman cannot be a current Livonia Branch AAUW member.

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Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

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Briefly describe the nominee’s background and qualifications for this award

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\*Additional information or support can be provided as an attachment

## **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION\***

*one or more of the criteria are necessary for selection*

1. Honoree reflects the goals of AAUW – to advance equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, philanthropy and research.
2. Honoree must have a record of involvement in activities that bring benefits to others such as children, senior citizens, neighborhoods or the community at large.
3. Honoree has displayed leadership abilities.
4. While the local nature of the honoree’s work is given preference it is not required.

\* Current AAUW - Livonia Branch members are not eligible for his honor

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to committee by OCTOBER General Meeting for consideration this year.  
Carol Strom- [Carolstrom27@gmail.com](mailto:Carolstrom27@gmail.com) – 39598 Eagle Trace Drive, Northville, MI 48168-3414 – 734 464-2733

## LIVONIA BRANCH SCHOLARSHIPS at SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

In 2014 our Branch established a scholarship at Schoolcraft College Foundation. Funds are awarded with preference given to a female student who is enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours per semester and who is having difficulty financing their education as defined in their scholarship essay. Funds, up to \$500 per semester, are awarded for tuition, fees, lab fees and textbooks. These awards are made by Schoolcraft in compliance with Schoolcraft College Foundation and Schoolcraft College Financial Aid Office procedures and applicable regulations of the State of Michigan and the federal government.

In 2020 our Branch was the recipient of a \$25,000 gift from the estate of long-time member Nancy Sannar. Nancy was a member of AAUW-Livonia Branch for over 35 years. She served in various leadership roles on the Board of Directors and was its president in 1990. The Board established a Committee lead by Treasurer Carol Symanns and including our Scholarship Chair and Education and Equity Co=Chair, Betty Coller, our Ways and Means Chair, Nancy Shaw, several past presidents and long-time members. The Committee proposed a scholarship endowment in Nancy's honor as a thank you for her dedication to the mission of AAUW and the Livonia (MI) Branch. The Nancy Sannar Scholarship Endowment was officially established in early May 2020 using the same preference and procedure for awarding recipients \$500 per semester. The letter establishing this new scholarship and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Branch and the Foundation are filed at Schoolcraft Foundation.

Two scholarships were provided in 2021-22 fall and winter semesters; from the Livonia Branch AAUW Scholarship Fund. Each scholarship was for \$500 and went to Kate Romano. We received a thank you letter from Kate which is included in this Communiqué. The Livonia AAUW Nancy Sannar Endowed Scholarship will provide its first scholarships for the 2022 fall and 2023 winter semesters.

The branch intends to contribute additional dollars to these scholarship as they are available and approved by the Board of Directors. **Individual members may make contributions directly to one or both scholarships at any time.**

### THANK YOU LETTER - Kate Romano September 7, 2022

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 1:17 PM

**To:** Scholarships <Scholarships@schoolcraft.edu>

Dear Foundation-AAUW-Livonia Branch,

My name is Kate Romano and I wanted to thank you so much for giving me this scholarship and supporting me and my education. I am currently involved in a culinary class, and I love it. Cooking has always been a passion of mine. I love cooking for my family, and I am excited to use these skills in the future. My goal is to get my bachelor's degree in culinary arts and hopefully run a restaurant of my own one day. So again, I want to thank you so much for your generosity. I am so blessed and thankful.

Both funds are part of the Schoolcraft Foundation (501c3) and contributions to the funds are tax deductible to the extent to the law.

Any member wishing to contribute to the either one of the AAUW-Livonia Branch Scholarships can do so by completing the form below and mail it with a **check made out to Schoolcraft College Foundation:**

The Schoolcraft Foundation  
18600 Haggerty Road Suite 220 Jeffress Center  
Livonia, MI 48152

Make sure to indicate **AAUW-Livonia Branch Fund** or **Nancy Sannar Scholarship Endowment** in the check memo line and in the form below:

Questions - contact Branch Scholarship Chair - Betty Collier 734-425-5312



**AAUW LIVONIA BRANCH - Scholarship Donation**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email: (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check to Schoolcraft Foundation and indicate here and in memo line on the check.

AAUW-Livonia Branch Fund      or       Nancy Sannar Scholarship Endowment

## NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT – How can we all help?

The Livonia Branch turned 50 in 2021 – something of which we can be proud. Over the years our Branch activities and programs supporting the AAUW Mission and Values (education and equity) along with the friendships that evolved were in a large part responsible for our membership ranks growing to a high over 150.

Over the last few years our organization and many others, have been challenged by a changing world, by COVID complications, by the rising cost of everything including membership dues and by a reduction in volunteers to serve in leadership roles. We still believe there are those out there who would be interested in our organization, its activities and projects and supporting the AAUW Mission.

**The question is how do we reach them?** Person to person discussion and outreach is a good answer. Our president, Lynn O'Neil, sent a letter to her friends and contacts encouraging them to get to know us by attending a meeting. That letter is below. We ask each of you to reach out with a similar message and help us recruit new members. We can provide you with a base message which you can mail or email to friends.

If you are interested contact Charlie [mahoneyc@prodigy.net](mailto:mahoneyc@prodigy.net) for a from letter you can use.



I would like to invite you to a meeting of AAUW (American Association of University Women).

Our mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Membership includes not only Livonia, but Michigan and National membership.

AAUW's vision is equity for all and its values are non-partisan, fact based with integrity, inclusion and diversity. You can explore the state and National websites ([aauwmi.org](http://aauwmi.org) and [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org) for topics of interest and activities.

Our branch in Livonia, has been in existence since 1971 and we are one of 31 branches in Michigan. We support the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This is a two and a half day conference that addresses the needs of current and aspiring women student leaders. Our fund-raising efforts support several student from Schoolcraft College to attend this event.

We support several community outreach groups and projects such as our annual Salute to Women Luncheon, the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, the Wayne Family Center (a transitional shelter), Livonia Goodfellows, and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program at Schoolcraft College. Our branch also sponsors two scholarship funds at Schoolcraft College.

We also have several study and interest groups such as book clubs, cooking clubs, a sewing club, bridge clubs and A Great Decisions club whose focus is international relations. There is a Travel and Culture committee that organizes interesting trips to local areas. Speakers are scheduled for every meeting. We meet once a month on the third Tuesday of the month.

Please join us on September 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Rd., Livonia, MI. Our speaker will be Joe Grimm with an interesting history of Faygo pop.

Sincerely,

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## **BRANCH ACTIVITIES**

The Board is encouraging the chairs of our regular activity groups that were not meeting due to Covid to meet your group leaders to begin planning for 2022-23 events. If you need to set up a zoom meeting for your planning team let me know - we are excited to get back into our regular activities.

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACTIVITY GROUPS NOT MEETING YET IS BELOW.** If you are interested in learning more about them or joining one or more activity as they plan for post-COVID contact them.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP** - This group met on at 10:00am at Cassels. Contact: Pat Smith 248 859-4846

**STITCHING BEES** - Contact: Betty Collier 734 425-5312

**BRIDGE GROUPS** -

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday - Sue LaBurn 734-261-8231

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday - Pat Smith 248 859-4846

**HOLYHOCKS/RADISHES** - Contact: Pat Smith 248 859-4846

**BASTING BELLES** - Contact: Mary Jo Plante 734-464-1577

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### **MONDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

**September & October**

**Date: Monday September 19 - 2:00pm**

**Book:** "THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY" By Amor Tolles

**Moderator:** Susan Paluchniak

**Hostess:** Sandy Ralston, 15631 Liverpool, Livonia  
Phone: 734-464-6761



**Date: Monday October 17 - 2:00pm**

**Book:** "THE GIVER of STARS" by Jojo Moyes

**Moderator:** Barb Nagarah

**Hostess:** Ann Stando, 34785 Haldane, Livonia  
Phone: 248-474-9311

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### **GREAT DECISIONS**

This group is meeting via ZOOM Anyone interested can join. If you are not a current member of this group and want to join, please contact Louise Weller and she will add you to the ZOOM invite list. All are welcome. Come and try us out.

**DATE:** Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00AM via ZOOM

Join us at 10AM for the DVD and discussion.

**TOPIC:** "Xi's China Takes on the Quad Alliance"

Chapter 5- 2022 Great Decisions Book

**MODERATOR:** Louise Weller

**CONTACT:** Louise Weller 248-513-7280.



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### **Wayne County Family Shelter Collection**

Advance notice, we will be collecting items for the Family Shelter at the October meeting. Jean Norman will be at her car in the parking lot prior to that meeting so you can drop off your donations before going to the meeting. The kinds of items needed will be listed in next month's Communiqué

Thank you in advance, Jean Norman

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## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

### **LIVONIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

*Saturday, October 22, 2022 Concert*  
**"Autumn Reflections Beethoven's Back**  
Clarenceville Schmidt Auditorium 4:00pm

Featuring  
Leroy Fenstermaher Trio  
Ania Sorokhtel, Piano;  
Lillian Fenstermaher, Violin and Yawen Hsu, Cello  
**Performing Beethoven's Triple Concerto**

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*Note: LSO Concerts and Events are subject to CDC COVID Guidelines, State, Local and Venue protocols in place at the time - check livoniasymphony.org*

Contact: Carol Bonamici 734-522-1637

The LSO Board and Musicians wish to thank Anne Carrier and the members of the Livonia Branch of AAUW for their continued support as ushers, concert goers, special event attendees and donors.

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### **SCHOOLCRAFT and AAUW STEM EVENT for 2023**

Carol Strom and Betty Collier are working with the team at Schoolcraft to plan the Spring 2023 STEM event. It will most likely be in March and we will be asked to volunteer at the event. Details to follow in future Communiqués. Your Board has budgeted \$2,000 to support this event.

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### **HONOREE NOMINATIONS NEEDED for AAUW SALUTE TO WOMEN**

Annually, in December, we present a "SALUTE to WOMEN" Award recognizing a woman whose efforts reflect the goals of AAUW and whose contributions enhance the quality of life for others. Traditionally this award is celebrated with a luncheon ceremony on the second Saturday of December. Unfortunately, yes due to COVID, we did not host a luncheon in 2020; but we did select a nominee and made the award virtually. In 2021 we honored Tracey Stevenson at an in-person luncheon. We need your nominations for our 2022 Salute. The criteria and nomination form is in this newsletter; please submit your nomination to us before the October 18<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. For more information contact Carol Strom 734-464-2733.

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### **GOODFELLOWS- NO CHILD WITHOUT A CHRISTMAS**

We will also be collecting new unwrapped gifts for the Livonia Goodfellows at the October meeting. It is never too early to begin thinking of those less fortunate than us. Bring your unwrapped gift to that meeting or contact Carol Strom for details.

Thank you in advance, Carol Strom and Livonia Goodfellows

18633 Williams Ct.  
Livonia, MI 48152

**REMINDER**  
*September General Meeting  
begins at 7:00 PM  
and is IN-PERSON*

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS  
2022 - 2023**

- October 18<sup>th</sup> -Michael Hauser - Hudson's Revisited
- November 15<sup>th</sup> - Mayor Brosnan - Livonia Update
- December 10<sup>th</sup> - Salute to Women - Luncheon  
This is a Saturday Holiday Celebration
- No meeting in January 2023**
- February 21<sup>st</sup> - Living & Learning Center Northville
- March date - A tribute to Women's History Month
- April & May tbd - if you have ideas let us know

Contact Deb O'Neil, Program VP  
[doneil11@aol.com](mailto:doneil11@aol.com) or 248-346-5879

**TRAVEL/CULTURE PROGRAMS RETURN  
2022 - 2023**

- Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> - Oudolf Gardens
  - Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> - Wonders of Wyandotte
  - Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> - DIA-Van Gogh Exhibit
  - Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Arts Warehouse  
in Cherry Hill Village  
\*\*\*\*\*
  - January 2023 - program and date TBD
  - March 26<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> - A Lansing visit with tours of  
Michigan State Capital Building & Broad Art Museum
  - May 18<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> - Living and Learning Enrichment  
Center in Northville
  - June - date & performance TBD Purple Rose Theatre  
& Common Grill Restaurant
- Look for details for each in upcoming Communiqués  
and via email. Mary Jo Plante 734-464-1577