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Arrow

**AAUW2
Cleveland Branch Membership Initiative
September 20
2 p.m.
The Ghost Train
Clague Road Playhouse
1371 Clague Road
Westlake
440-331-0403**

We are trying something new this year – a mystery and refreshments along with a new membership meet and greet. Traditionally, our Branch has had a membership meeting in September. During intermission at the Playhouse, we'll have a table set up with information about the AAUW and another table with light refreshments. The idea is to introduce ourselves, pass out some literature and engage people, although briefly, in discussions about our Branch. We have 2 tickets left, and there is still time to snail mail them if you like. Please call, text or email me and I'll be glad to make arrangements to send you the tickets.

Our October meeting is Wednesday October 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Westlake Porter Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road, Westlake. We are leading a discussion of voter issues such as the Voting Rights Act and the recent Shelby County v. Holder decision, Issue 1 (redistricting), voter

suppression. The discussion will include the League of Women Voters. This discussion will use written questions from the attendees to be answered at the Saturday November 7 from 1:30 to 3:30 with a panel facilitated by representatives from the League, the ACLU, and our Branch.

Both discussions are open to the public. These are important issues which will affect us all.

Light refreshments will be served at the October and November meetings. Please consider attending one or both meetings.

State News (aauwoh.org)

Public Policy News: September 2015

2015 SEPTEMBER 1

tags: [public policy](#)

by admin

By Karen Rainey

AAUW of Ohio Public Policy Chair

Here's the "Issue of the Month" plus other news to share with your branches. Please make time on your September meeting agendas to include an update on AAUW concerns.



Karen Rainey

In this issue:

- Issue of the Month: Charter school reform
- New website with voter information on all judicial candidates
- New website on AAUW-endorsed Issue 1, redistricting reform

- National Voter Registration Day, September 22
- Reminder: Sign up for Two-Minute Activist
- New brochures available

Charter School Reform Needs to Happen Now

Both houses of the General Assembly are due back after their summer recess this month; they need to act in concord to make reform happen. The Senate improved on transparency and accountability issues when it passed House Bill 2, but the House did not agree with the changes before recessing last June. The House needs to concur with the changes or both houses need to appoint a conference committee to iron out their differences. Call your senator and representative to urge their support; you can use the legislative hot line, 1-800-282-0253. For more information on the performance and impact of charter schools, go to www.knowyourcharter.com.

Judicial Votes Count: New Statewide Voter Service

A new statewide voter education web site, www.JudicialVotesCount.org, is live as of September 1. It includes profiles of every judicial candidate in the state, along with a variety of information on what Ohio's courts do. Why? Because voters frequently pass up voting on judicial races, feeling that they don't have enough information to make an informed choice. The new site is strictly nonpartisan, and is the product of a partnership of the Supreme Court chief justice, the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron, which houses the web site, the Ohio State Bar Association, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, the Ohio Newspaper Association, and the Ohio Association of Broadcasters.

Redistricting Reform: Fair Districts = Fair Elections

Supporters of Issue 1, the redistricting reform constitutional amendment that will be on November's ballot, have created a new web site, www.yesforissue1.org. Here you can get the details of the proposal, an explanation of gerrymandering and why it's so damaging, a list of all endorsers to date (including

AAUW), and sign up to volunteer. Because redistricting tends to be an arcane topic, voter education is critical to passage of the amendment. Be sure that you—and your friends and neighbors—are informed of the importance of this amendment.

National Voter Registration Day September 22

AAUW is solidly behind National Voter Registration Day, coming up on September 22, and there are ample resources for getting started on the association web site, www.aauw.org. At the least, please use your Facebook posts and other social media to remind people to register to vote. Anyone needing to update their address can do so on line at the Secretary of State's web site, www.sos.state.oh.us. And if a voter has been inactive for more than four years, that voter could be purged from the poll books and will need to reregister.

Reminder: Two-Minute Activist

Now—the beginning of the program year—is a good time to solicit your branch members to sign up for the two-minute activist. It's the easy way to make sure your voice is heard in Congress on the issues that matter to AAUW members. Just go to www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minuteactivist/ and enter your email address.

Branch Events

AAUW Ohio Branch Meetings and Events September 2015

- [Worthington Branch](#) will meet Wednesday, Sept. 2, 6:30 p.m. for its Annual Fall Potluck and an update on redistricting at the home of Jana Patchen.
- [Wooster Branch](#) will hold its fall general membership meeting Sept 3, 3-:30-5 p.m. on the theme of Tech Talk. Members and guests are welcome to this event which will be held at Wooster High School in the Technology

instructional area. Presenter will be Nathan Greene, MED, computer education and technology instructor, who will share information about privacy, viruses, drop boxes, updating, transferring photos, email fonts, and the differences between Java, Adobe, and PDF—and more if time permits. Email questions prior to the meeting may be submitted to Anita Greene at media@bright.net. Note: Entering from the west parking area, the instructional area is the second hall to the left and then right. Bring your personal devices for this interactive session and ask questions or share concerns.

- [Mansfield Branch](#) will meet Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. in the community room at Mansfield Senior High School. Stacy Hunsinger will speak on the Common Core and state testing.
- [Wooster Branch](#) will hold its annual book sale Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 at Wayne Co. Fairgrounds, Home Economics Building, 199 Vanover St., Wooster. Wednesday – Friday hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday is “1/2 price day.” Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and books are \$5 a bag that day.

October 2015

- [Mansfield Branch](#) will meet Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Richland County Foundation, 181 S. Main /St., for a meeting on the Women’s Fund.

November 2015

- [Mansfield Branch](#) will meet Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Richland academy of the Arts, 75 N. Walnut St.

National News (aauw.org)



September 11, 2015

Dear Diane,

This was an exciting week for AAUW! On Thursday, I testified at a hearing entitled “Preventing and Responding to Sexual Assault on College Campuses” before the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training. It was an honor to be invited and to represent AAUW, and it was satisfying to see the issue taken seriously. Though the opposition and I had varying ideas on solutions for the problem, there was no question that campus sexual assault was definitely a problem that must be addressed. Prevention, in fact, was the common thread of the hearing.

That kind of cooperative, rather than adversarial, atmosphere is what is needed to make progress in creating effective policies for this nationwide problem. AAUW continues to support the HALT act (H.R. 2680) which would require campuses to do climate surveys to get a better handle on the dynamics of sexual harassment and violence in their communities. We also support the SOS Campus Act (H.R. 1490), which would ensure survivors have access to advocates to help them understand their rights and get the support they need.

My participation in this hearing was a team effort and for that I'd like to thank Erin Prangle and Anne Hedgepeth for their expertise and support in preparing me for this challenge. I'd also like to thank all of you who have sent in countless emails and tweets of support before, during, and after the hearing! The AAUW community always rallies when we need you!

If you'd like to see the hearing, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPy3YVglZrM>

Thank you again and stay tuned as we continue the push for meaningful legislation to make college campuses safe across the country.

Sincerely,
Lisa Maatz
Vice President of Government Relations

Top Stories

Department of Labor Announces Rule Prohibiting Pay Secrecy
On Thursday the Department of Labor [announced](#) a final rule that

The One Thing You Must Do...

Yesterday, Lisa Maatz testified in a House hearing about preventing and responding to sexual assault on college campuses. AAUW members across the country live-streamed the hearing and joined the conversation on social media. Now it's time to make your voice heard by Congress too—[urge your representatives](#) to cosponsor the HALT Campus Sexual Violence Act (H.R. 2680)!

But Because You Want To Do More...

Classes are back in session, and the best way to start a great school year is to ensure that classrooms are safe and equitable for all. Under Title IX, schools are obligated to provide these conditions on their campuses. You can help improve students' learning environments by [pledging to deliver the Department of Education's brand new resources to your local Title IX coordinators](#).

Get Social

- On Tuesday we raised awareness to Native American Women's Equal Pay Day. AAUW members joined in full force on social media by hashtagging [#NativeWomenEqualPay](#).

- Thank you to members for live-tweeting and using the hashtag [#CampusSA](#) during Lisa Maatz's testimony on campus sexual assault on Thursday!

New Resources

The Women's Bureau hosted a webinar commemorating the 25th

would prohibit federal contractors from retaliating against employees who wish to discuss and share information about salaries. This rule serves to implement President Obama's 2014 executive order promoting pay transparency and openness. Federal contracts will now include an equal opportunity clause that prohibits federal contractors from firing or discriminating against employees who discuss compensation. In addition, employees will be made aware of this new transparency because contractors must include a nondiscrimination clause in employee handbooks. The final rule will take effect on January 11, 2016.

White House Launches "Heads Up America" Campaign to Promote Community College Plan

The White House [announced](#) a campaign called "Heads Up America" to promote President Obama's plan to fund two years of free community college for Americans. As the new school year begins, the campaign aims to attract public support for America's College Promise plan, which President Obama proposed in January. He announced the campaign on Wednesday in a speech at Macomb Community College in Michigan. To boost its launch, the speech featured appearances from celebrities such as Chris Rock and Kal Penn. Advertisements will be released across the country to make the public aware of the president's initiative. More information and updates can be found on the [Heads Up America website](#).

handbooks. The final rule will take effect on January 11, 2016.

Sexual Assault Initiative Receives \$41 Million in Grant Award

Vice President Joe Biden and Attorney General Loretta Lynch [launched](#) grants to address the backlog of rape kits in 27 states. In conjunction with the New York County District Attorney's Office grant of \$38 million, there is a total of \$78 million that will be distributed throughout 20 jurisdictions to facilitate more efficient policies and protocols among victim service providers, laboratories, and police in testing and utilizing rape kits.

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State Spotlight

Congressman Derek Kilmer of Washington's 6th district [attended an event](#) hosted by AAUW of Washington and the Jefferson County League of Women Voters. The panel discussion focused on reforming the role of money in politics and how to preserve the nature of true democracy. The Congressman was very grateful to have been invited to the event and thanked both organizations for their efforts.

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AAUW Cheer of the Week

Congressman Jim Costa of the 16th district of California [memorialized](#) a former California Chapter President of AAUW, Rosellen Kershaw. In his tribute, he honored her with descriptions of her numerous achievements and commitments as a "professional volunteer".

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AAUW Jeer of the Week

The University of Iowa's search for a new president demonstrated a glaring [lack in diversity](#), narrowing its finalists down to four white men. The University of Iowa's exclusion of

anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) this summer. [Discover all the ways](#) the ADA has benefitted women with caregiving responsibilities, new mothers, and women in the workplace.

President Obama is moving forward with his initiative to fund two years of free community college. This week, the White House [released a progress report](#) on models and proposals to implement the community college plan.

women in the presidential search represents a larger underrepresentation. Women make up only 26 percent of college and university presidents despite 60 percent of women earning undergraduate and master's degrees.

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Bits and Pieces

- On Wednesday, Harvard law professor Lawrence Lessig [announced](#) his bid for the Democratic nomination in the Presidential race. His main policy will be focused on reforming campaign finance.

- New health regulations in the Affordable Care Act will now [protect](#) all genders under the proposed rule of Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities. In particular this would extend protection to transgender people by granting them the right to use gender-appropriate restrooms and by prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage based on discrimination.

- On Wednesday, Planned Parenthood Federation of America was [not invited](#) to the congressional hearing concerning the federal funding of the organization. This is the first of a series of House judiciary committee hearings about defunding Planned Parenthood.

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I've attached another dues form for anyone who has forgotten or has a friend who might be interested in joining.

MEMBER DUES FORM

American Association of University Women – Cleveland Ohio Branch

Effective Dues Period July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Regular Member	full annual dues	\$74.00
Life Member	state/branch dues	27.00
Dual Branch Member	branch dues	16.00
Student Member	branch dues	20.00
Total dues for current year		\$ _____
Branch Contingency Fund		\$ _____
General Branch Support		\$ _____

PLEASE WRITE SEPARATE CHECKS FOR DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS (as requested for IRS purposes)

Please make your check(s) payable AAUW CLEVELAND BRANCH and return to:

Diane Ahlers
2050 Radcliffe Drive
Westlake, OH 44145

Your Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Degree/Year	Institution	Location
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____