



AAUW Youngstown Newsletter

December, 2024

As we approach the end of the year, we will be living in a country with a vastly different outlook. Thus, the photo- we hope for the best for families, children, and the disadvantaged, we have faith that our country will persevere and maintain our democracy, and show our love to ALL, even those who disagree with us. A friend of mine from UUYO sent me this message that his pastor in Florida posted-it came from a Hebrew commentary: “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly now, love mercy now, walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.”



Holiday Party
December 7, 2024
At Davidson’s, 3636 Canfield Rd, Canfield, OH 44406
11 a.m.

We will be ordering from the menu and will have entertainment. We hope you will participate in our fundraiser for scholarships. It was suggested that we bring items that can be used by those of us who do not need any more dishes, decorations, or tchotchkes. Suggested: gift cards, food items, or even just a donation. We were hoping to have a couple of students from Dana School of Music play for us, but it has not worked out. A conflict developed so they will be unable to play.

.....

Citizens Not Politicians on Issue 1 Failure

It was not really an election in the normal sense of the word, where voters choose between two options, and the one that more people want wins. It was more like an exhibition of raw political power without constraints, where what the people want is the least of the concerns. Frank LaRose and his friends have inflicted a massive act of intentional and targeted deception on the people of Ohio. We just hope history holds them accountable. It does make me a little anxious to think about what will happen when there are no checks and balances to a political party with decisions to be made in our country and in Ohio. To everyone feeling uncertainty about what lies ahead, know that we have navigated the challenges of a different Trump administration before. The good news is we know more now than we did in 2016.

Rather than feeling disoriented, I am heartened by the millions of people who voted in favor of inclusive public education and gender equity.

- Voters in Missouri and Alaska expanded paid sick leave.
- Voters in Kentucky and Nebraska made sure public money goes to public Schools.
- Voters in Arizona and Montana voted to expand access to abortion care.
- Voters in New York passed an inclusive Equal Rights Amendment to their state constitution.

These issues are core to women’s lives and core to our mission — and it is progress, but it is not enough. **We must work together** to continue to support women. We must be ready to defend against policies that will impede women’s ability to fully access education and achieve economic security.

Ohio Issues 2025

The election results will be certified on Dec. 2nd, Bills we need to monitor include:

● **SB 324:** Would add provisions to change election law, including but not limited to removing drop boxes, new requirements in initiative petitions, and more involved processes for citizenship verification in voter registration.

● **SJR 5:** Would modify the process for statutes proposed by initiative petition, primarily eliminating the four-month legislative window to instead give a two-year safe harbor to newly passed initiated statutes.

● **SB 173:** Would protect election workers by expunging their home addresses and cell phone numbers from public records. *Will there be more bullying and bigotry? Republican Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina has introduced legislation which would require the House sergeant-at-arms to enforce segregation of bathrooms on the Capitol, preventing transgender members of the House from using the bathroom of the gender they identify with. While we are not surprised about the candidates that Trump is announcing for his cabinet, we can only wait and watch to see what will happen. I would say write to your senators and voice your opinion, but I do not know if it would help. The “Republicans” spent over \$5 million in the election to defeat Brown.

● **Info on Vouchers:** The Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding is suing the state, challenging the constitutionality of the harmful private school voucher program that is now projected to cost taxpayers and public schools \$1 billion this year.” Please note that Vouchers are used to pay for schooling that is not accountable to the public for how it spends its money, does not have to admit any or all students who apply, is not held accountable for providing the services needed for students under the disabilities act, etc. The State has shown its inability to govern even the charter schools that are part of the Fair School Funding Plan. Public dollars should be used to fund the system of common schools called for in the Ohio Constitution

Minutes AAUW of Youngstown Minutes November 2, 2024
Meeting Place: Park Vista North Lounge 10:00 am
15 members (1 is speaker), 3 Visitors

Thomas G. Welsh, Ph.D. This presentation, titled “Staying Relevant: Positive Organizational Responses to the Mahoning Valley’s Transformation,” Revealed how some communities and organizations in the Youngstown area has maintained visibility and influence amid challenging post-industrial trends. The talk focused on two strikingly different communities, the local Jewish community, and the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown, both of whom have preserved a strong institutional presence and powerful sense of mission. The presentation highlighted specific strategies that enabled these groups to pursue their goals in the face of tough circumstances.

Call to Order: 10:20 am

Attendance 14

- **Secretary's Report:** No corrections. Moved Mary Yee and seconded Janet Haladay
- **Diversity-** Nina Stourman: No report.
- **Scholarships** - Denise Dobson-Walters: No report.
- **Membership** – Denise Walters-Dobson and Mary Yee: Anyone joining at the meeting will have ½ off National Dues.
- **Public Policy-** Barbara Brothers:

○ Contact legislators about EdChoice vouchers- VOTE The court case from school boards from public school districts challenging the constitutionality of EdChoice vouchers has been postponed until after the election. Please contact the site vouchershurtohio.org for more information. If your local school board has not joined the court case, please contact them to encourage their support.

- **Fundraising** – Mary Ann Allgood (Handel's)

Increased in price to \$6.50. About 9 more cards expire in November. When we have more than 1 speaker, do we give every speaker 2 Handel's cards Barbara moved seconded Sharon-passed, we will give 2 cards to each speaker. The Handel's card cannot be used at every location. Locations are listed on the card.

- **Communications** – Jorine Stone

Articles were submitted to the Vindicator and to The Review. Information was submitted to WYSU.

- **Treasurer's Report-** Vilma Kolacz-Belanger, information released to members, only.
- **Website-** Janet
- **Programs** – Sharon Stringer & Jorine Stone

- Holiday get together-we will have two students from Dana School of Music performing-their recommended reimbursement is \$125 apiece. They are willing to accept \$200. \$100 is coming from our treasury. We need to make up the rest from personal donations. The date is December 7th at 11:00 am Saturday Holiday Luncheon at Davidsons. We will also have a fundraiser-bring gift cards or something practical to auction off. If you prefer, we will take a donation.

- **Old Business**

Still working on new bylaws-need to send new ones by June 2026. Election Resources available on AAUW Action Fund.

- **New Business**

- AAUW Upcoming Webinar on women's economic security-Nov. 19, 3 PM

Post Election Toolkit available at this link: [Post Election Toolkit](#)

Announcements

Upcoming events that may be of interest.

- SMARTS Family Dinner! November 20, 2024, 5:30-7:30 PM at Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel tickets Adults: \$30, Children: \$15
- AAUW November Coffee November 16, 2024 at 9:00 AM "The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind and Body in the Healing of Trauma' by Kolk
- Centofanti Symposium: Henry Louis Gates Jr. on Nov. 7th at 7pm-Stambaugh Auditorium-free
- YSU Wind Ensemble Honors: Nov.10th 7 pm-Stambaugh cost \$5
- Stambaugh Youth Concert Band Fall Concert-Nov. 12, 7:30 pm- cost \$6 to \$8
- The Thanksgiving play-at Youngstown Playhouse Moyer Room Nov. 15-24th

- Opera Western Reserve-La Traviata Nov. 22nd 7:30 pm Powers Auditorium
- 51st Annual Tuba Christmas and 8th annual Holiday Craft Show- Dec.1st 11-5, Concert 3:30 pm- Stambaugh Auditorium-goodwill offering
- ALS fundraiser- November 10, 2024 Dinner and Raffle at St Columbia

Adjournment: 12:36m

Sharon Stringer moved for adjournment, Sherri seconded it Lovelace-Cameron. Motion carried.



Hope to see you in December
Jorine