



ILLINOIS LINK

American Association of University Women – Illinois, Inc.
Fall, 2011 -- Number 292



Fall for AAUW!

AAUW-IL Fall Conference, 2011
October 28-29, 2011
Stronghold Conference Center
Oregon, Illinois
www.strongholdcenter.org



Photo: Illinois River, Oregon, Illinois

Join AAUW colleagues and friends for our Fall Conference at beautiful Stronghold Conference Center in historic Oregon, Illinois, just 75 miles west of Chicago. Come early on Friday and check out Oregon's local attractions. (Listings here: www.oregonil.com)

Speakers:



Women and Political Leadership

“A woman’s place is in the House....and the Senate,” goes the saying. Do the pressures of 21st century campaigning discourage women from running? Dr. Barbara Burrell, Professor of Political Science at Northern Illinois University, will talk about the challenges of fundraising, the effect on personal and family life, for candidates from school boards to the White House.



Demystifying Social Media

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google Connect, blogs, websites -- so many ways to communicate! Find out how to make your branch’s internet presence effective for your members and as a recruiting tool. Presenter: Tara Caldara, Assistant Director and Technology Trainer, Zion-Benton Public Library. Tara has helped community groups and local agencies improve their web presence.



Friday is **HALLOWE’EN MOVIE NIGHT!**

Jan Lisa Huttner, film critic and AAUW member, will show a film (TBA) and moderate a discussion. Popcorn included!

Illinois Link

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President's Fall News

By Lois Strom

The 2011-12 AAUW-IL, Inc. Board of Directors is off to a great start this fiscal year. We had our summer board meeting in Bloomington on July 15 and 16. Please welcome elected members: Andi Danis, President Elect; Marilyn Van Ausdall and Rachel Campbell, Co-Membership Vice Presidents; and Cindy Grau, Secretary. Newly appointed board members are Diane Balin, Co-Director, International Affairs; Gloria Hollister, Co-Director of Branch Outreach; and Shirley Daddona, District 3 Director. All board members stand ready to serve as a resource to assist you and your branches. We are as close as your computer and/or telephone.

Events underway for 2011-12 include the following:

- Jane Addams Birthday Celebration in Cedarville on Saturday, September 17. Jane Addams was born on Sept. 6, 1860 in Cedarville, IL. Visit where it all began.
- Fall Conference, Saturday, October 29, 2011, at Stronghold Castle in Oregon, IL.
- AAUW-IL, Inc. State Convention on Friday and Saturday, April 27-28, at the Holiday Inn-Itasca, Itasca, IL.

One of the highlights for me this summer was attending the AAUW National Convention in Washington, D.C., with approximately 100 members from Illinois. The convention was outstanding and well planned. The “Big Teal Machine” as coined by Lisa Maatz took over Capitol Hill on Friday after a thorough briefing on Thursday afternoon. Nearly 700 convention-goers joined together to lobby senators and representatives on Social Security protections, funding for the National Women’s History Museum, and sponsorship/passage of the Campus SAVE Act, an anti-sexual assault bill. More than 250 offices were visited, and members met with their senators, representative, and aides from all 50 states.

More than 10,000 ballots were cast online and by mail making this a historic election of “one member, one vote” to elect national officers and approve bylaws and public policy program amendments. Members voted to pass all the proposed amendments to the bylaws and public policy program.

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The newly elected AAUW Board of Directors are Carolyn Garfein, President; Patricia Ho, Vice President; and Directors at Large: Kathy Anthon, Amy Blackwell, Kathryn Braeman, Julia T. Brown, Sandra Camillo, Kathleen Cha, Charlene Goehring-Fox, Connie M. Hildebrand, Millie Hoffler-Foushee, David Kirkwood, Betsy McDowell, Dot McLane, and Peggy Ryan Williams.

It would be difficult to state what session or workshop was the best. Andi Danis and I attended a preconvention workshop for state presidents. It was great to meet and interact with other state presidents. The “Powerful Women in the Obama Administration” was definitely a highlight. The panel moderated by Lisa Maatz consisted of Tina Tchen, chief of staff to Michelle Obama and executive director of the White House Council on Women and Girls; Russlynn H. Ali, DOE’s Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights; the Justice Department’s Jocelyn Samuels, and the Department of Labor’s Patricia A. Shiu. Discussion centered around Title IX, civil rights laws, reproductive rights, and protection against employment discrimination. Tchen asserted that the administration is trying to “change the DNA of the federal government so that every agency pays attention to women’s issues in life and the workplace”.

On Saturday morning, Wal-Mart v. Dukes plaintiff Edith Arana and co-counsel Arcelia Hurtado, executive director of Equal Rights Advocates, spoke to AAUW members about this historic workplace discrimination lawsuit. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Funds signed an amicus brief and gave financial support to help the case’s named plaintiffs, Arana and Betty Dukes, travel to the U.S. Supreme Court hearing on whether their case can continue as a class action. At the convention, prior to the ruling, we were all hopeful that a positive decision would come down in favor of a class action lawsuit. As we are all aware, the outcome was extremely disappointing and the vote (5/4 decision) was split by gender.

If you are interested in more information about the convention, go online to <http://convention.aauw.org>. This will take you to AAUW Convention Home and click on highlights. Workshops, sessions, etc. can be found on this site.

If you are interested in attending the next convention SAVE THE DATE 2013 for the AAUW National Convention in New Orleans on June 9-12, 2013. And please save the dates for the amazing state programs coming up in 2011-12: September 17; October 29 and April 27-28, 2012.

Note to Branch Presidents and Newsletter Editors

Use State and National AAUW information at your branch meetings and in your newsletters. Information on programs, projects, research, affiliations, funding and history can be found on the website, AAUW.org. This helps branch members feel connected to the entire organization (branch, state and national levels).

**AAUW ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS
THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION,
PHILANTHROPY, AND RESEARCH.**

2011 AAUW-IL Agent of Change

Penny Parish, District 1 Director

Mary Lillesve of the Jerseyville Branch was named the 2011 AAUW-IL Agent of Change at the State Convention luncheon on Saturday, April 30 in East Peoria. The annual award recognizes an AAUW-IL member who has served as a catalyst to bring about positive societal change. The directors of the five Illinois districts chose to recognize Mary for her outstanding leadership in the restructuring of the Girls Empowered by Math and Science (GEMS) Conference, a STEM project sponsored by the Alton, Jerseyville, and Wood River Branches.



Mary moved to Grafton, IL in 2007 after retiring from a career with the Minnesota Dept. of Education, and fulfilled a long standing ambition when she joined AAUW as a member of the Jerseyville Branch. She soon became involved with the GEMS Conference, which was aimed at getting local middle school girls excited enough about math, science, and technology to consider STEM careers, and to encourage their parents and teachers to become involved in the girls' plans for future success.

Despite good attendance numbers, the fourteen-year-old conference was in need of revitalization and restructuring to move forward, as well as more leadership. Mary volunteered to head the new and critical communications committee, charged with developing strategies to increase community awareness of and interest in the program. Their work yielded a website that became an effective tool for spreading information and streamlining registration, an Ambassadors Committee that improved communication with schools, and expanded media outreach and coverage that increased community awareness. Mary agreed to co-chair GEMS in 2009, and became its sole chair in 2010.

Mary's organization skills, efficiency, creativity, and blatant rookie enthusiasm proved to be the shot in the arm GEMS needed to get past a period of doubt and fear that perhaps the project had run out of steam and was nearing its end. With renewed enthusiasm and dedication among its Steering Committee and volunteers, GEMS has moved forward to reach an ever-widening audience that has grown to understand the importance of its mission and become increasingly eager to help spread the word.

AAUW-IL will begin its search for the 2012 Agent of Change in January, with information going out to all branch presidents via e-mail. We congratulate Mary Lillesve on joining the elite group of women it has recognized with the Agent of Change Award as stellar examples of how one person can truly make a positive difference. Please consider those among us who qualify for this prestigious honor and nominate them next year.

THANK YOU

Mary Lillesve, who received the Agent of Change Award for her work with the GEMS Conference in the Jerseyville Branch, at the AAUW-IL, Inc. State Convention wrote the following: "It's hard to find words to tell you and the members of Illinois AAUW how much I appreciate the honor you bestowed on me at the annual conference last week in Peoria. The "Agent of Change" recognition is a thrill and honor since it comes from women I respect, admire and call my friends."



Membership Matters

Marilyn Van Ausdall and Rachel Campbell
Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Marilyn writes: I was a sophomore in college when I first became aware that women didn't have to be second-class citizens. It was an exciting time in the early 1970s, obviously not for all good reasons, but the Women's Liberation Movement WAS a good one. Sharing personal experiences regarding gender bias at meetings of student women, and reading Sisterhood is Powerful are vivid memories. Clearly, in many ways, we have come a long way since then.

However, many young women today take for granted the rights that they now enjoy, just as I didn't realize when I was young how lucky my mother was to get to go along with my father to vote. How do we educate them about the hard-fought victories won by dedicated women over the years? How do we make sure that they realize there is still work to be done, that the fight for equality is not over? How do we organize them to continue that work? By getting them to become members of AAUW!

Wouldn't it be great if every college woman had the occasion to either ask, "What's AAUW?" or, even better, to already know the answer to that question? We need to get the word out about this wonderful organization and all the good that it has accomplished through the years. We need to make more people aware of the important research that AAUW has done, and continues to do, regarding gender bias. Why, with all the college-educated women that exist across the country, are there only around 100,000 members in AAUW?

I'm as guilty as the next person about not tooting AAUW's horn enough through the years. Here are some things that I'm going to make a special effort to do this year:

- I'm always going to have some of the AAUW business cards on hand "available for purchase at the AAUW.org website" so that I can hand them out as I meet prospective members.
- I have an =pay pin, an AAUW pin, and a Woman Pin from www.lucinda.com that I'm going to make a point of wearing. These are great conversation starters when people notice them.
- I'm going to try to make sure that all female students at colleges in my area know about AAUW before they graduate.
- I'm going to make better use of the Public Service Announcements available at AAUW.org, and other helpful member information at this informative website.

Rachel and I hope that you will join us in really getting the word out this year. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to help you.

Please call or email us if you have any membership problems or suggestions.

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

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Public Policy
Pat Porep and Marcia Wherry
Co-Directors of Public Policy

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY IMPACT GRANT

The State Board members were delighted to learn that AAUW-IL will be receiving a \$1,000 Public Policy Impact Grant for fiscal year 2011-2012. Our application for the grant proposed a state plan for a two year voter education and turnout campaign to mobilize women to vote in the 2012 elections. It was submitted to the national AAUW office shortly after the state convention in April and included ideas from the Public Policy break-out sessions, our lobbyist, Paula Purdue, and Public Policy committee members.

National staff will provide training and technical assistance to help us reach our goals. The plan of action will involve organizing the public policy committee to help implement activities through-out the state that focus on:

- Educating the public about issues impacting the status of women and girls in the 2012 election, specifically issues in the AAUW biennial action priorities; and
- Registering women to vote and creating a database for follow-up during the 2012 election season.

The success of the plan will depend upon involvement of branch leaders and members in sponsoring public meetings, working with coalitions and local colleges to increase voter registration and publicizing the importance of voting. It is our intent to use positive results to qualify for a follow-up impact grant for 2012-2013.

If you are a new Public Policy chair for your branch - or if you are a continuing PP chair with an email address that has changed in the past 18 months - please provide your updated contact information to Marcia Wherry at mjwherry@aol.com in order to receive more information.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SICK LEAVE - an example of a public issue as referenced above

While taking some recent vacation days I found out that if I didn't use them they would roll over into sick time. What that means is I would have at least 10 sick days to use next year if something happened and I ended up in the hospital, or even if I just got a cold and wanted to keep it to myself.

Many employers do not grant paid sick time for employees. That means the employee has to choose between being sick or caring for a sick child and putting food on the table. This is equivalent to people without health coverage having to choose between food and medicine. It is the poorest of workers, primarily female, who are affected by the lack of paid time.

"For these reasons, AAUW strongly supports the Healthy Families Act in Congress. The bill provides seven accrued paid sick days a year for full-time employees to be used for their own medical needs or to tend to the medical needs of a child, spouse, or parent. Part-time employees would receive a pro-rated share of paid sick days. " **

Please encourage your Public Policy Chairs to download the **AAUW Paid Sick Days Resource Kit from the AAUW.org website (type the title in the search box). There are action plans and initiatives which will stimulate dialog about this important topic.

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LOBBYING FOR IMPROVED SEX EDUCATION

The AAUW-IL lobbyist team, Paula and Jenni Purdue, are working with a coalition of more than 30 organizations to promote passage of HB 3027 in the fall legislative session. The goal is to advocate for passage of the legislation that would create a standard for sexual health education courses that are more medically accurate, age-appropriate and complete. Eleven legislative districts have been identified where the state representative could be supportive or receptive to listening to requests from local AAUW members about voting for the bill. Contact information and background material is being forwarded to the Public Policy chairs in branches within or close to the districts. We hope that face-to-face contact with the rep in her or his home district will make a difference!

An alternative approach is to send a personal note to your representative. An example of such a note is below:

As a constituent concerned with providing teens in grades 6 - 12 with all the information and education needed to make healthy and responsible decisions about all aspects of their sexual health, I hope that you will join me in support of HB 3027 - the Accurate Sexual Health Education bill.

Illinois does not require that schools teaching sexual health provide medically accurate, age appropriate and complete information to students. HB 3027 creates a standard for existing sexual health courses by incorporating age-appropriate scientific research and information about reducing unintended pregnancies and STDs and STIs in 6 - 12 grade classes, while ensuring that those classes continue to stress abstinence.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 3027 (Senate Amendment 1). I would appreciate a written response telling me how you plan to vote on this bill. Thank you!

DOWN WITH CO-PAYS FOR BIRTH CONTROL!

On August 1, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that new insurance plans will be required to cover women's preventive services and birth control without co-pays as part of health care reform. This is a BIG step toward equality. During the 60 days following this announcement, the public has the opportunity to offer comments on the new ruling as well as a proposal that would allow some religious employers to deny access to this vital health care service.

Meet the State Board





AAUW Funds

Kathy Brenniman and Sharon Urban
AAUW Funds Co-Directors

AAUW-IL, Inc. and two of its branches received several awards at the AAUW Convention in Washington, DC for their contributions to the many AAUW Funds and programs, totaling over **\$130,000**. States and Branches around the country were awarded Top 10 Certificates for Total Giving and for Per Capita (Member) Giving for each of the seven program funds and for combined giving to all the funds. AAUW-IL, Inc. received 13 awards, and two Illinois branches were singled out for their outstanding philanthropy.

AAUW-IL, Inc Awards:

- 2nd Place, Total Giving to all AAUW's Programs (Guess which state was first?)
- 8th Place, Per Capita Giving to all AAUW's Programs
- 8th Place, Total Giving to **AAUW Funds (unrestricted gifts support programs with the greatest needs)**
- 2nd Place, Total Giving to the **Educational Opportunities Fund (formerly the Educational Foundation, supports fellowships and grants and specific named endowments, etc.)**
- 5th Place, Per Capita Giving to the **Educational Opportunities Fund**
- 2nd Place, Total Giving to the **Eleanor Roosevelt Fund (funds AAUW's ground-breaking research including the upcoming research on bullying in middle schools to be released this fall)**
- 7th Place, Per Capita Giving to the **Eleanor Roosevelt Fund**
- 3rd Place, Total Giving to the **Legal Advocacy Fund (funds employment discrimination cases, LAF travel grants, campus outreach projects, etc.)**
- 9th Place, Per Capita Giving to the **Legal Advocacy Fund**
- 2nd Place, Total Giving to the **Leadership Programs Fund (funds NCCWSL, National Conference for College Women Student Leaders; Campus Action Projects; Campaign College; and the Ruth Sweetser Fund supporting NCCWSL)**
- 4th Place, Per Capita Giving to the **Leaderships Programs Fund**
- 6th Place, Total Giving to the **Public Policy Fund (funds Government Relations, Civic Engagement, Civic Organizing, etc)**
- 5th Place, Total Giving to the **AAUW Action Fund (funds AAUW's lobbying).**

In addition to Illinois' awesome fundraising, two Illinois branches were in the top ten branches in the country for their philanthropic efforts:

- **Lombard Area Branch** - 4th Place, Total Branch Giving to the Leadership Programs Fund (includes the Ruth Sweetser Fund)
- **Wheaton/Glen Ellyn Branch** - 9th Place, Total Branch Giving to the Educational Opportunities Fund (former Educational Foundation).

Illinois was clearly a rock star at the AAUW Convention and was duly recognized for its outstanding philanthropic efforts that benefitted all the various AAUW programs. Thanks to all the Illinois branches, AAUW-IL, Inc., and individual AAUW members in Illinois for their generous contributions benefiting women and girls.

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AAUW Branches in Illinois should also be very proud of the completion of many endowments supporting American Fellowships, International Fellowships, Career Development Grants (CDGs), and Community Action Grants (CAGs) over the past several years. We have recently completed the Western Springs Research and Projects (R&P) Endowment (CDGs and CAGs), and have almost completed the Mary Ellen Smyth American Fellowship Endowment. Remember, no grants or fellowships may be awarded until an endowment is completed.

Uncompleted IL Endowments are:

- Mary Ellen Smyth #4294 - about \$5,000 of the \$100,000 remains.
- JoAnn Horowitz R&P Endowment #4311 - about \$13,000 of the \$75,000 remains.
- Marjorie Robinson/Katharine Storm R&P Endowment #4318 - about \$35,000 of the \$75,000 remains. Robinson and Storm are longtime members of the Wheaton/Glen Ellyn Branch, honored by their branch.

December 31, 2011 is the absolute deadline for all 2011 donations to be mailed to Washington, DC. All donations postmarked later than December 31 to DC will NOT be counted for the 2011 fiscal year. No exceptions from DC! If you prefer to send your contributions directly to DC, please send a copy of the form and check to us: LAF and Public Policy to Sharon and all the rest to Kathy. Our info is in the State Directory sent to branch presidents. Remember if you donate to AAUW Funds (#9110) that fund is now unrestricted and supports programs with the greatest needs at the time. If you wish to donate funds to what was unrestricted Educational Foundation, you must donate to fund #4336. Contribution Forms and instructions will be emailed once we receive the new branch officer listings. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Call for Nominations for State Officers

Carol A. Heisler, Nominating Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee seeks AAUW members to fill elective state offices for the 2012-2014 biennium. The committee is made up of representatives from the 5 districts.

The 2012-2014 offices and the suggested qualifications are show below:

Program Vice President – Shall have served one or more terms as a member of the State Board and shall have had extensive Branch experience as Branch President and/or Branch Membership Chair.

Director of Finance Elect– Shall preferably possess the specialized accounting skills required to perform the duties.

Nominating Committee Chair—Shall have had at least one two-year term on the State Board.

AAUW Funds Director—Shall have a broad interest in and knowledge of AAUW Funds and preferably shall have had experience on the State Board.

Nomination forms will be available at the Fall Conference. They may be submitted then or mailed/e-mailed to the committee chair at 461 Rockland Road, Crystal Lake IL 60014; carolheisler@gmail.com (please put “nomination” in the subject line). Any AAUW member in good standing may make a nomination.

IN MEMORIAM:



MARY ELLEN SMYTH 1936 - 2011

Mary Ellen Smyth was a wife, mother, an English and speech university instructor, a high school teacher, a business consultant, a patron of the arts, a volunteer, a professional actress, host of a weekly television interview show, chief administrator of a medical corporation, a philanthropist, and, as most of us knew her, an active member and leader of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for many decades. She was the owner of The Smyth Organization, a medical practice management services company with consulting services in communication and staff and leadership development for both health care professionals and organizations.

Mary Ellen was a native of Wyoming who made her home in Illinois with her family for several decades. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Wyoming, she was later honored as a "Distinguished Alumna." As an educator, she served on the faculties of the University of Wyoming and Pennsylvania State University. She was also a secondary school teacher in Colorado, Wyoming, and Illinois. Her community involvement included membership on the Governing Boards of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Zoological Society, the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, and as a founding member and past president of the National Advisory Board of the University of Wyoming Art Museum.

Mary Ellen was an active member and leader of AAUW for over forty years. A former president of the Riverside Branch, she served on the Illinois State Board for several years, including four years as AAUW-IL, Inc. President. She also chaired the AAUW Illinois 75th Anniversary celebration in 1997-99 and served on the Association Conference of State Presidents Planning Committee.

No one was more passionate about and committed to AAUW's philanthropic mission than Mary Ellen. She served several years on AAUW's Educational Foundation (EF) Board, four as Secretary, two as Development Vice President, and four as President from 2001-2005. She was President when AAUW began its reorganization with the consolidation of the EF Board and the Legal Advocacy Board. As an experienced speaker and workshop presenter, Mary Ellen led sessions across the country in AAUW and other organizations on leadership development, board organization, team building, strategic planning, and group dynamics. She was also a member of the first AAUW/League of Women Voters delegation to the People's Republic of China and attended International Federation of University Women (IFUW) conferences in California and Japan.

Mary Ellen will be remembered for her outstanding contributions to the fields of education and the arts, her tireless volunteer and philanthropic efforts, her leadership skills, and her many contributions to AAUW. She will be missed.

Donations may be made to AAUW Fund #4294 in her name: https://svc.aauw.org/contribute/index_aauw_donation.cfm?CorpCode=C3



VIRGINIA FIESTER FREDERICK 1917 - 2010

Virginia Fiester Frederick was a wife, mother, grandmother of eight and great grandmother of seven. Raised in Linden, Iowa, she received her B.A. from the University of Iowa in 1938. She received an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Lake Forest College in 1994 and earned her Masters of Liberal Studies Degree from Lake Forest College in 2001.

Virginia had a fashion career creating beautiful couture clothing designs from 1947 to 1979. Her designs were commissioned for the White House wedding of Luci Johnson, President Lyndon Johnson's daughter. In the 1970s she provided fashions for the Lake Forest – Lake Bluff Branch AAUW for an Educational Foundation fundraiser. Her designs were modeled by Branch members.

Virginia Fiester Frederick became the first woman in history to be elected to the Lake Forest City Council, where she served as an alderman from 1974 until 1979. In 1978, she was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives where she served for 16 years. Virginia worked on several pieces of legislation to fight back against street gangs and also focused on child welfare issues. She fought for environmental protections for the state of Illinois and worked to preserve historical landmarks. She was a strong supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Virginia Fiester Frederick was President of the Lake Forest – Lake Bluff AAUW Branch from 1966-68, and she served as AAUW-Illinois, Inc. President from 1975-77. She organized the first group of women to visit China in the 1970s, and included on that trip were local AAUW members and members of the League of Women Voters. She wrote her autobiography, *Moving On: My Life Through the Twentieth Century and Today*.

With her political career and community service, Virginia Fiester Frederick was on the front lines of women's equality and participation in shaping our world.



Illinois Delegation on the steps of the U.S. Senate Office Building – National Conference June 2011 (photo: Nann Hilyard)

A Note of Thanks

AAUW-IL, Inc., paid for registration for **Yasmeen Villaseñor** to attend the NCCWSL conference. Yasmeen is a student at NIU and the Dream Action Coordinator Community Advisor. She also participated in the Elect Her-Campus Women Win at NIU. Ms. Villaseñor wrote:

“On behalf of a sponsorship from AAUW, I attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders June 1-4 2011. . . Attending this conference has truly opened my eyes and awakened in me more passion to make positive changes to my campus and community. Through both the formal presentations and informal networking with my peers I feel that I was able to take away much advice and many ideas that will transform me as a leader and an individual.” She further wrote, “Knowing that I’m not alone in wanting to create change is inspiring to a degree that I cannot describe. I plan to continue influencing my community in positive ways and want to become more involved with AAUW because I believe in their mission in advancing equity for women and girls. Overall attending NCCWSL has been an unforgettable experience and I cannot wait to implement what I have learned in future initiatives.”

International Affairs Faye Marcus, Chair



We are planning an exciting year of education and action for International Affairs (IA). We are part of AAUW's public policy initiatives to help promote equity for women and girls all over the world. A big job indeed! Through your support of Action Alerts on various IA subjects we strive to help attain this goal and the UN Millennium goals pertaining to females. AAUW members work in coalitions to support human rights treaties, partnership with global organizations like CARE and the UN, and promote awareness through programs, readings, and events such as International Women's Day. We have learned that the Girl Effect can lift whole communities out of poverty in a very cost effective way. Donna Sproston is available to speak to your branch on this subject. Members of the IA committee include co-chairs Faye Marcus (Rockford-Dist 5), Diane Balin (Riverside-4), and committee members Barbara Evans (Elgin-5), Donna Sproston (Monmouth-3) Sharon Jenkins (Alton-Wood River-1), and Marti Sledak (Downers Grove-4). The IA committee plans to update the international reading list (www.aauw-il.org), make people aware of various issues, develop program resources, and share information among branches. Consult the listing in the April 2011 Convention booklet of the many ways IL branches are active in IA for programming ideas.

Of course a main AAUW IA activity is to continue to offer International Fellowships through the generous support of AAUW members. In 2011-12 there were 1,220 applicants from 113 countries. Many well deserving women were not funded, but we can be proud. Because of AAUW members a total of 49 fellowships totaling almost a million dollars was awarded. International Fellowships for full-time study or research are available to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents and support graduate or postgraduate studies at accredited institutions. Recipients are selected for academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to women and girls. The overwhelming majority return to their home countries to become leaders in government, academia, community activism, the arts, and science.

With such a huge task, what impact can one person have? You can start a study group, or have your literature group read about global women's issues. You can be active with your church or temple which may have outreach to support aid and development. You can insure you and others support "Fair Trade" by encouraging others to buy products that enable people in developing nations to receive fair wages, not just enrich middle men. You can buy gifts at Ten Thousand Villages and your morning coffee that is fair trade. You can participate in your local CROP Walk from Church World Services or similar activity.

In addition to continuing to support our other partnerships with CARE, the UN, etc, we are thinking of starting a new pilot initiative in IL to form partnership between AAUW-IL and the International Friendship Force. We would like to offer information and a workshop at the April Convention. The Friendship Force was created in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter at a White House gathering of state governors. In 1985, the A.R.M.S. (American Russian Mutual Survival) program was implemented under the auspices of The Friendship Force (FF). The endeavor encouraged the use of arms that embrace rather than arms that destroy and was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. FF has grown into a global network of clubs organized and led by volunteers in more than 350 communities on six continents. FF enables "visiting ambassadors", ordinary citizens, to spend a week in the home of a host family. The participating ambassadors and hosts develop a shared understanding of each other's culture so that a true cultural exchange takes place. In many cases, the friendships established during an exchange continue for many years, with follow-up visits through later FF exchanges or through private visits. This happened to Diane Balin. She visited New Zealand and Australia with the FF club of Kansas. Since then she has hosted a couple from KS who planned the trip, and two of her NZ hosts. Soon a couple from Sweden that she traveled with to NZ will be staying with her before they go on to KS. One really develops person to person friendships. Any member of FF can participate in any exchange anywhere in the world with any club that has planned an exchange. And of course one is then free to continue the friendship and promotion of international understanding.

We plan to recognize branches at the Convention in 2012 for their IA initiatives so plan what you and your branch will be doing to promote equity for women and girls, not only locally, but globally!

Jane Addams Day Celebration 2011

Andi Danis, Jane Addams Day Chair



We are having a birthday party – and you are invited!

Jane Adams was born and raised in the small town of Cedarville, IL on September 6, 1860. She graduated from Rockford Female Seminary nearby and went on to lead a remarkable life. She passed away in Chicago in 1935 and was returned to Cedarville for burial in the family plot at Cedarville Cemetery.

Join us in Cedarville as we celebrate her life! Our party will begin with coffee and rolls at the Cedarville Area Historical Society which houses a permanent exhibit, including artifacts, documents and photos, of Jane’s early years. After a tour of the exhibit we will chat with Jim Bade, President of the Cedarville Area Historical Society. After a buffet lunch of assorted sandwiches and salads...and yes – birthday cake – we will proceed to the cemetery where Mr. Bade will give us some insight into the family burial site. We will leave a small memorial to honor our sister in AAUW, Jane Addams.

A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JANE ADDAMS

Saturday September 17, 2011 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Cedarville Area Historical Society*

450 W. Second Street (west of Mill St. at the top of the hill) in Cedarville, IL

Registration and coffee: 10:00-10:30 am

Tour, Talk, Lunch and Cemetery Visit to follow

Cost: \$20.00

Cedarville is located 6 miles due north of Freeport, IL (Nearest main routes: IL-20 and IL-26)

Closest hotel: Baymont Suites, 1060 Riverside Dr. in Freeport

Want to make a weekend of it? Galena is only 50 miles away! www.visitgalena.org

**facility is not fully ADA accessible – requires climbing stairs*

(Cut on this line and return completed form)

A Birthday Party for Jane Addams – September 17, 2011

Reservation deadline is September 3, 2011

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number Attending: _____ @ \$20 each = _____ total amount enclosed

Please make check payable to AAUW-IL, Inc.

Mail to: Marlene Boncosky, 1030 Plantain Ct., Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Questions? Contact Marlene at 815/459-3313 or marlenerb@sbcglobal.net

...Continued from page 1

Fall Conference Schedule

Friday

4:00	Registration opens
5:30	Dinner
7:30	Movie Night!

Saturday

8:00	Registration opens / Breakfast
9:00	Welcome, Introductions, AAUW Updates
9:30	Women and Political Leadership
11:00	Demystifying Social Media
12:15	Lunch
1:00	District meetings
1:45	Wrap Up

Registration is in Brubaker Hall.

Meals are served cafeteria-style in Brubaker Hall. Indicate special diet needs on the registration form.

AAUW has 46 beds reserved at Stronghold – 15 double rooms, 3 triple rooms, and one quad room. Beds are lower bunks. Single rooms are not available. If you have a roommate (or roommates) preference, you and she/they must provide one another's names on the forms. Otherwise roommates will be assigned. Suggestions for lodging in Oregon:
<http://www.oregonil.com/lodging> There are many chain hotels in Rochelle, 20 miles east.

Directions to Stronghold

Address: 1922 Illinois Route 2 North, Oregon, IL 61061

http://strongholdcenter.org/facilities_images/directions.html

815-732-6111



Fall for AAUW!

AAUW-IL Fall Conference October 28 & 29, 2011 REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone: _____

Branch: _____

Branch office: _____

AAUW-IL district _____

State board member? _____

Friday

Dinner (cafeteria style) \$8.25 _____

Lodging at Stronghold \$35.00 _____

Movie Night No charge _____

Saturday

Full-day package (meals and program) \$50.00 _____

TOTAL _____

Roommate's name: _____ OR

Assign a roommate _____

Indicate if you have a dietary restriction (Kosher, vegetarian)

Make checks payable to AAUW-IL. Registration must be POSTMARKED by October 11.

Registrar: Erika Nicketakis, 4378 West Lawn Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031

Questions about registration: contact Erika Nicketakis@aol.com or 847-623-2342

Questions about program: contact Nann nbhilyard@comcast.net or 847-827-2688

AAUW-Illinois, Inc.
c/o Lois Strom
1708 Clearview Dr.
Springfield, IL 62704

TO:



Fall for AAUW!

AAUW-IL Fall Conference, 2011
October 28-29, 2011
Stronghold Conference Center
Oregon, Illinois
www.strongholdcenter.org