



ILLINOIS LINK

**American Association of University Women – Illinois, Inc.
Fall, 2012 -- Number 294**

DISTRICT MEETINGS TO REPLACE FALL CONFERENCE THIS PROGRAM YEAR

2013 will be a big convention year, with the joint Illinois/Missouri state convention in St. Louis on May 3-5, and the national convention in New Orleans on June 9-13. To encourage attendance at these events, District meetings will enable AAUW-IL members to save travel and registration expenses this fall. District Directors are working locally to hold events for their member branches to talk about issues pertinent to them.



District 1 Director, Jennifer Urish, will be driving around beautiful southern Illinois, visiting each of the branches in her district individually this fall. AAUW members in District 1 will be invited to meet Jennifer and share their ideas and any concerns they might have.

District 2's meeting will be on Saturday, November 3, from 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. at the Springfield Public Library at 326 South 7th Street. Topics to be covered include membership, program ideas, public policy, and networking. State Board members Margaret Stewart, co-membership vp and Alice Huebner, district branch outreach chair, will be in attendance. For additional information, Sallie Miller, District 2 Director, may be contacted at 217-356-9214 or millersallie@hotmail.com.



Shirley Daddona has scheduled District 3's meeting for Saturday, September 29, 2012, at The Kensington in Galesburg, 311 E. Simmons Street. President Andi Danis and Branch Outreach Director, Alice Huebner, will be attending. Registration opens at 9:30 A.M. Coffee and cookies will be served, with time for socializing before the meeting starts at 10:00. Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$10.50. With the day's business ending at 3:00 P.M., attendees will then have time to browse Galesburg's great shopping area, right near The Kensington.

Specialty Shops and Restaurants in Galesburg, Illinois

SEMINARY STREET

HISTORIC COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

(Continued on page 11)

Illinois Link

Published twice annually by
the American Association of
University Women-Illinois, Inc.

Editor—Marilyn Van Ausdall
103 Lake Warren Dr
Monmouth, IL 61462
309-734-3917
vanausd@frontiernet.net

President
Andrea (Andi) Danis
24 Scarsdale Road
Montgomery, IL 60538
630-892-6366
danishouse@sbcglobal.net

Program Vice President
Cindy Grau
412 Lake Ave.
Park Ridge, IL 60068
847-384-8136
cindy@equivoice.com

Membership
Co-Vice Presidents
Rachel Campbell
1198 Blackhawk Drive
Elgin, IL 60120
847-695-9024
snowylark@gmail.com

Margaret Stewart
3202 Stoneybrook Dr.
Champaign, IL 61822
217-356-9475
mkestewart@aol.com

Secretary
Carolyn Berning
10 Beachview
Springfield, IL 62712
217-529-7833
cberning@aol.com

Director of Finance
Jean Cairns
1420 71st Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-963-3611
jeanc5740@aol.com

AAUW Funds Director
Barbara Spiegel
7438 N. Artesian Ave.
Chicago, IL 60645
773-973-3024
spiegelba@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant
Jane Munsie
512 Redondo Dr. Apt. 507
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-985-0320
jamunsie@aol.com

President's Fall News

By *Andi Danis*



WELCOME to the 2012-2013 program year for AAUW-IL, Inc., which officially began on July 1, 2012. My name is Andrea (please call me Andi) Danis and I am extremely proud to be your President for the next two years. I want to give special credit and thanks to Lois Strom, whose leadership for the past two years and guidance during this transition has been invaluable to me and to the entire State organization!

We held our summer board meeting in Bloomington on July 13-14, 2012, and I am so excited by the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication of the many excellent women leaders that are serving on your State Board! You will have many chances to get to know them over these next two years as we plan to be highly visible and available to you and your branch. We want to help! We want to cheer for your branch successes and work with you to meet your challenges. We are ready and waiting - put us to work FOR YOU!

Normally a great deal of the fall issue of LINK is dedicated to Fall Conference. As you will notice, we have changed the format of the fall meetings this year. Instead of having one large fall conference that has been held in a more Northern location for the past several years, we will be holding district meetings in each of the five state districts. This has been done before and there are several reasons as to why we resurrected this format for at least this year. One reason is that we are looking for ways to make sure that every branch in our state, no matter how far south, north, east or west, has a reasonable opportunity to attend state functions. Members who do attend state and national meetings are often re-energized when they gather with so many like-minded men and women. And it is so helpful to network about branch programming, tips to attract members, and branch leadership strategies.

Another reason for holding more localized meetings this year in particular is the fact that we have several larger gatherings on the calendar:

- State Convention 2013 will be a joint convention with Missouri AAUW! That's right – we are gathering again in St. Louis May 3-5, 2013, as we did in 2001.
- National Convention 2013 will be held in New Orleans June 9-13! This is a great opportunity to visit a historical location and connect with AAUW members from all over the country.

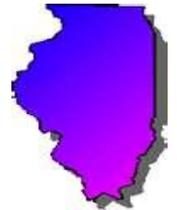
We are going to put a lot of energy into encouraging branch members to attend one or both of these events, yet we understand that this can place a strain on branch and personal budgets because they involve longer hotel stays, travel costs, etc. Localized fall meetings are one way to help ease those budget lines.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Watch for communications from your District Director about your local meeting. Each district's arrangements may vary as the individual Directors determine what works best for the branches in each district. State Board members will try to attend when/where possible, and there will be lots of time for sharing ideas, asking questions, and picking up information about upcoming events. We will be eager for your feedback, as well, on your vision for future successful fall meetings – we want to know what is important to you!

And we are off and running.....go AAUW!



Get Ready for a Joint Convention in St. Louis May 3-5 2013 Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark*

Come to beautiful St. Louis for a joint convention with Missouri. St. Louis is home to the signature Gateway Arch and beautiful Botanic Gardens along with many museums and a zoo. The City Museum is a must see for children of all ages. Or perhaps you'd rather have an Italian dinner on the Hill. Either way there is much to see and do in this great city.

We will gather Friday night starting at 5:00 P.M. for registration and set up of display tables. Each branch is encouraged to come up with a display to share a project with other branches. Fundraising tables are another way for branches to participate. Hospitality suites will be open Friday night for welcoming receptions. On Saturday we will open at 9:00 A.M. with a keynote. Breakout sessions, a luncheon and State Meetings will fill the day. We will wrap up the day with a combined state banquet and, lastly, hospitality suites. There will be an Eleanor Roosevelt Walk on Sunday morning and a Final Session to wrap up the convention at 11:00 A.M. Please start planning now how your branch can participate. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Rooms will be \$139 for single or double occupancy

2012 AAUW-IL Agent of Change

Introduced by Marilyn Lawler, Former District 2 Director

Chicago's Jan Lisa Huttner was named the 2012 AAUW-IL Agent of Change at the State Convention luncheon on Saturday, April 28, in Itasca. Since 1984, the Agent of Change Award has been presented annually to an AAUW-Illinois member who has served as a catalyst to bring about positive societal change. All efforts relating to AAUW's mission are considered, with special emphasis placed on activities that relate to current AAUW priorities and initiatives, such as education, equity, diversity, and public policy. Selection is made by the directors of the five AAUW-Illinois districts.



This year's recipient is a "WOW." Jan is without a doubt a woman who lives the AAUW mission and purpose, as exemplified by her promoting AAUW through the Jane Addams Day event this past December and for directing the exceptional SWAN Day event in March 2011. Her energy and intellect reflect her dedication and willingness to effect change.

With the support of the AAUW-Illinois board, Jan began WITASWAN (Women In The Audience Supporting Women Artists Now) a grassroots effort to mobilize audience support for creative women in all media. Jan took the initiative to create WITASWAN in 2002 when the AAUW-Illinois Board responded to a biased and ridiculous article in the *New York Times* which asked a good question, "Why are there so few women filmmakers?" The response, however, that women are the ones to blame, brought our Value Promise to the forefront, reminding us that "by joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks though educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

In 2005, the Illinois Board again addressed the issue of women in the arts and announced their support for an International SWAN Day event. Under her direction, Jan advances equity for women and girls through WITASWAN and the SWAN Day projects she has completed. The 2011 SWAN Day proved once again that Jan's actions are ingrained in AAUW's mission, purpose, and diversity.

In her role as a film critic, Jan recently published "Penny's Picks: 50 Movies by Women Filmmakers 2002-2011." She has also been active on yet another front. After the Carbondale Branch pushed for legislation to create Jane Addams Day to honor the woman who lived and worked for social justice, Jan arranged for the Chicago Branch to host a celebration to honor this great woman, since she had been one of the co-founders of this branch.

Jan fulfills the purpose of the Illinois Board, "in collaboration with other groups sharing a common vision of social justice," by celebrating Jane Addams' life. The December 10, 2011, event featured special guests Professor Anita Hill and Addams' historian, Louise Knight. IWPA (the Illinois Woman's Press Association) co-sponsored the meeting and Jan portrayed Jane Addams in costume. You can often find Jan dressed in period costume as Jane Addams at various such celebrations.

It is without hesitation that Jan Lisa Huttner embodies the boldness and beauty of a modern, American woman. All forms of media, especially cinema, are powerful avenues toward cultural understanding. Jan Lisa Huttner created a way to begin the necessary changes which will occur in this male dominated arena. Jan always says she needs AAUW to remind her that societal change is possible. So, after the 10th Anniversary of WITASWAN and the 5th anniversary of Jane Addams Day, AAUW-Illinois was thrilled to honor Jan with the Agent of Change Award for 2012.



Membership Matters

Rachel Campbell and Margaret Stewart
Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Rachel writes: It's easy to say and some would think it trite: Every member of an AAUW Branch is on the membership committee. Membership chairs everywhere regard this maxim as true and believe it to be key to the success of an AAUW branch. Branch members who assist the membership chair in identifying and encouraging new members are making important contributions to their branch. New members bring ideas, enthusiasm and experiences that lead to new ways of doing things.

Branch members offer new members opportunities to become an important part of the branch by providing a welcoming and friendly atmosphere at all branch events and by including them in established activities. Integration of new members into branch activities leads to a strong organization committed to furthering the goals of AAUW.

Retaining members is another aspect of membership in which members can participate. As committed AAUW members we need to listen to the new members of our branch; listen to what they have to say about branch programs and activities, hear suggestions that they make for new projects or improving the ones already in place. Involvement leads to commitment and commitment leads to dedication.

As we begin a new year of activities, plan how you can be of help to the membership chair. If you are the membership chair, develop a membership committee. Ask new members to join you in strengthening your branch by reaching out to include everyone in your branch, even those members who don't regularly participate. I know you will be amazed at how willing your membership is to support the goals of our organization.

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Rachel Campbell
847-695-9024
snowylark@gmail.com

Margaret Stewart
217-356-9475
mkestewart@aol.com



PublicPolicy

Marcia Wherry & Diane Balin
Public Policy Co-Directors



AAUW is using the above slogan to help expand its voter registration and turnout campaign for the 2012 election. The campaign is an integral part of AAUW's goal to have equity in public policy and to use strategies such as

- Promoting gender equity and pay equity in education and the workforce
- Meeting with public officials and publicizing positions on AAUW issues of Illinois candidates for the US Congress
- Networking with organizations having similar goals and missions
- Encouraging candidates, especially women, who share our Public Policy Program vision to run for public office
- Utilizing social media/electronic technology to advance public policy priorities
- Promoting policies to advocate for the protection of the environment

Members have access through [the www.aauw.org/takeaction](http://www.aauw.org/takeaction) website to such resources as AAUW Position Papers, the AAUW Action Fund (www.aauwaction.org), and the Two-Minute Activist when you wish to send a message to your representative on a particular issue.

Impact Grant Extended

Illinois was recently awarded a second impact grant from the AAUW Action Fund to help support activities addressing voter registration, education of our members and the public on issues most important to women, and voter turnout.

During the past year, we conducted research and developed pilot programs to involve more of the Millennial Generation (ages 18 - 31) in voter registration drives and discussions of AAUW's public policy priority issues in selected communities. Now each of the five AAUW districts will have some funds available for branches in its geographic area to help with expansion of the campaign. We hope all will become involved!

Almost every AAUW member in Illinois is already a registered voter and will be part of voter turnout. However, there are many young potential voters eligible to be registered at local high schools and colleges and who need to learn more about issues such as education, employment and healthcare. Branch members can become deputy registrars and help organize public events for education and registration purposes. Furthermore, branches are encouraged to work with organizations such as the League of Women Voters to reach more of the millennial generation and to provide opportunities at public events.

Campaign Organizer Hired

Briana Brown is onboard as a part-time campaign organizer under the direction of national staff. As a recent college grad with experience in campaign work as well as AmeriCorps, Briana is in touch with state officers and Branch leadership to help facilitate our GOTV/It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard campaign. Headquartered in Chicago, Briana can be contacted at brown.briananicole@gmail.com. To accurately report the status of the campaign, Briana will be seeking periodic updates for activities such as dates and numbers of new voter registrations, explaining how voters have options for absentee and early voting, as well as dates and participation in educational events and turnout efforts.

Woman-To-Woman Voter Turnout Manual

The workshop at the State Convention in April featured an overview and discussion of this manual for the campaign. The manual provides guidelines for many additional activities, including using the Voter Guides available to show voting records of Congress; preparing mailings of Guides; canvassing and phone banking; writing letters and doing media events, and planning candidate forums.

Kudos to Elgin Branch

Members of the Elgin Branch, with Nicki Skogfeldt as Campaign Manager and Laurel Bault as Coalition Coordinator from the Elgin Area LWV, wasted no time after attending the GOTV workshop at Convention. They are working diligently with nearby AAUW branches and other organizations in suburban Cook, DuPage and Kane counties to plan and implement a detailed campaign with positive and widespread publicity.

Dates to Remember

Right Now: Contact potential coalition groups to plan and schedule GOTV events

September 23 - 29: Our Voter Registration Week (one week period emphasizing voter registration)

From State Board of Elections website - see their calendar for more details

September 27: First day to apply for absentee ballot by mail or in-person (postmarked by November 5)

October 9: Final day for regular voter registrations

October 9: First day to apply for absentee ballot for Federal offices only (due to moving within 30 days)

October 10: Last day for deputy registrars to turn in voter registration materials

October 15: First day for early absentee voting at certain local municipal election authorities

October 22: First day for Early voting (ends November 3)

November 1: Last day for election office to receive absentee request from within US

November 5: Last day for voting an in-person absentee ballot at election office

November 6: Election Day at regular polling locations

Your AAUW-IL State Board



CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE LOMBARD BRANCH!

CONGRATULATIONS to Kathleen Brenniman who has been appointed to the Legal Advocacy Fund Review Board for AAUW in Washington, D.C., for 2012-2014. This board determines which cases AAUW will support and to what degree, through the Legal Advocacy Fund. All members of the Review Board are lawyers. Kathleen also serves on the AAUW-IL, Inc. State Board as Director of Bylaws and Policy. Kathleen, we are proud of you!



AAUW Funds

**Barbara Spiegel
AAUW Funds Director**

LAF PLAINTIFF FUNDRAISING AND BOARD APPOINTMENT

submitted by Kathy Brenniman, former AAUW-IL Funds Director

Great news! As many of you know, it was our honor to receive a Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Grant and to have LAF Plaintiff Paul Thein as a speaker at our State Convention this spring in Itasca. His heartbreaking and inspiring story enabled us to raise the most money raised with an LAF speaker - over \$5400!! Over 100 IL AAUW members were at the LAF luncheon, and 80 members donated money to LAF after Paul's speech. Awesome!! As many of you will recall, his parents from Wisconsin were there to hear him tell his story for the first time. Thanks to all for the generous contributions.



Paul Thein, former Vice President of Student Affairs and Institutional Development, Athletic Director, and Dean of Students at Feather River Community College, sued the college in 2006 for retaliation for complaining of sex discrimination in violation of Title IX. He was responsible for building up the athletic department and bringing in millions of dollars in federal grants to the college. Thein witnessed inappropriate actions by a staff member at a campus party and heard from female students about sexual harassment of female students by the staff member. He reported these incidents to the college president and the authorities and was subsequently fired. A recent ruling in Paul's case is favorable to him and the other two plaintiffs, and their new attorney in the case has taken it on contingency. A great sign, because he gets nothing unless the plaintiffs prevail.

***AAUW advances equity for women and girls
through advocacy, education,
philanthropy, and research.***



UN Declaration of Human Rights

On December 10, 1948, the United Nations adopted the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”. The Commission that designed this document was made up of 18 member nations with Eleanor Roosevelt as the Committee Chair. The UN has had this document since 1948 and the world is still working on implementing its tenets. The document addresses six human rights categories in 30 Articles. They are:

Political Rights—the right to vote and participate in government, the right to a Nationality, the right to leave your country and return to it.

Civil Rights—the right to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of religion, freedom of privacy, freedom to peacefully assemble or belong to an association

Equality Rights—the right to be free from discrimination

Economic Rights—the right to fair wages and safe working conditions, the right to equal pay for equal work, the right to join a trade union.

Social Rights—the right to education and adequate health care, the right of men and women to marry freely and with the full consent of the intending spouses.

Cultural Rights—the right to speak your native language and participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

When you consider that this was put together shortly after WWII and during the cold war, one can appreciate the animated discussions that may have occurred within this committee. The Articles stand up well, I think, but the implementation has been problematic, hasn't it? There are so many examples of infractions, not just on occasion but frequently, and often imbedded in a country's traditions.

Admittedly, sometimes it is difficult and depressing to read, view or comprehend the injustice. The violation of human rights only proliferates when there is no one watching and no one protesting. By supporting our sisters and our daughters, we can make a difference for them both with our dollars and with our voices.

Once again we will recognize those branches that sponsor an international program during the 2012-13 year. Please let me know what your branch is doing by emailing me at carolheisler@gmail.com. Include a sentence or two about your speakers and the subject.

Call for Nominations for State Officers

Judy Jolly, Nominating Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee for 2013-2014 consists of one person from each district.

- District 1: Penny Parish
- District 2: Nancy Daugherty
- District 3: Sharon Urban
- District 4: Alice Smith
- District 5: Judy Jolly

We welcome nominations for two Membership Co-Vice Presidents (one to represent Districts 1, 2, and 3 and one to represent Districts 4 and 5), Secretary, and President-Elect. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions or would like to nominate someone for one of these offices please contact Judy Jolly by email at grammajj@aol.com or by phone: 815-645-2502.

Nomination forms also will be available at Fall District Meetings. Nominations are due by November 1, 2012.

Simplify Your Branch Website

Beginning August 23, AAUW branches and states may sign up for Site Resources, the attractive AAUW-hosted website solution available to states and branches **free of charge**. Site Resources uses the WordPress publishing platform to provide an easy-to-maintain website template that delivers a professional web experience. Visit [AAUW Site Resources](#) or contact site-resources@aauw.org today for more information.

AAUW Site Resources is your website solution! States and branches can maximize membership communications, retention, recruitment, and fundraising efforts online in an easy, cost-effective manner. Using the WordPress publishing platform, AAUW Site Resources

- simplifies state and branch websites;
- is low maintenance and user-friendly;
- delivers a consistent, professional experience;
- integrates content updates from AAUW national;
- incorporates advanced functionality such as newsletters and events management to have a dynamic web presence;
- provides a centralized infrastructure and updates; and
- offers dedicated customer service.

To learn how AAUW Site Resources can ease the burden of maintaining your state and branch websites, contact site-resources@aauw.org or sign up for a free, no-obligation website review.

(Continued from page 1)

District 4's meeting will be held on October 6 from 9 A.M. to noon at the Naperville Country Club, 25W570 Chicago Avenue. District 4 Director Linda Henning Cohen states that branch presidents, membership chairs, and program chairs will be invited to meet in a more informal setting this fall. The meeting will include a full breakfast, time for networking, and sharing of program and fund raising successes. AAUW-IL President, Andi Danis will attend and there will be updates regarding state and national issues. There will be a report on the Get Out the Vote activities from our Public Policy Chairs. Rachel Campbell, AAUW-IL Co-Membership Vice President will discuss trends and what's working with membership.

Registration forms will be sent out to each of the above officers closer to the times of the event. There will be no charge for the event. Attendees are asked just to bring along their ideas and enthusiasm.



District 5, which includes 11 branches in the northeastern part of the state, held a breakfast meeting on Saturday, August 18, at Colonial Cafe in Elgin for branch presidents and membership chairs. Andi Danis, AAUW-IL President, welcomed everyone and Diane Balin, AAUW-IL Public Policy Co-director, gave information about the "AAUW Get Out The Vote" campaign, encouraging all branches to participate. Marlene Boncosky, District 5 Director, led the meeting and Rachel Campbell, AAUW-IL Vice-president of Membership, presented strategies for increasing membership. All enjoyed time to network and share ideas while having breakfast.

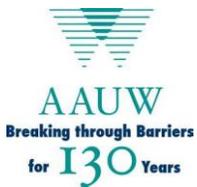


AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

AAUW-Illinois, Inc.
c/o Andi Danis
24 Scarsdale Road
Montgomery, IL 60538

TO:



Save the date!
AAUW Missouri – Illinois Joint Convention
May 3-5, 2013
St. Louis, Missouri

* * * * *

AAUW National Convention
June 9-13, 2013
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel