

Two Fall Conferences in October!

AAUW-IL, Inc. will again have two Fall Conferences in 2016. Choose the location and date that's best for you! Come to learn, share ideas, and renew your commitment to AAUW! Meet your state officers. Re-connect with friends and make new ones. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

11:00 am – 2:30 pm
Saturday, October 15
Lincoln Public Library
Carnegie Room North
326 S. 7th St., Springfield



NORTHERN CONFERENCE





9:00 am - noon
Saturday, October 22
Oakton Community College
(Entrance 37, Room 1610)
1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines



Presentations: The Roles of National, State, and Branches; Grants for Branches; AAUW Funds.

“Topic” tables: Sharing Fundraising Ideas; Successful Programs; Gender Equity Speakers Bureau; Get Out the Vote & Get Involved!

Come, hear, and share your AAUW experiences. Panel Discussion and Round tables will include:

-  Membership - What’s working for your branch?
-  Visibility & Outreach – Social Media
-  Leadership - Connections and Communications
-  Public Policy – Election Countdown

(Registration Forms on the Next Page & Online)

NEW THIS YEAR: Pay your registration through PayPal!!!

(Starting Friday, September 2)

Registration Method 1: Fill out the appropriate form online at aauw-il.aauw.net. Save a copy and attach it to an email for your chosen conference location. You're encouraged to pay your \$15 fee through the PayPal button, but if desired, you may write a check payable to AAUW-IL and mail it to the appropriate conference address.

Registration Method 2: Print out this page, fill out the appropriate conference form, and mail it with your \$15 check made out to AAUW-IL to the appropriate conference address.

**REGISTRATION FOR SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
(October 15, 2016)**

Name _____ Branch _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

There will be coffee available upon arrival, and lunch will be catered by Panera Bread featuring tea or lemonade and the ½ Sandwich, ½ Salad Box Lunch.

Please check your lunch choice:

_____ Sierra Turkey + Classic Salad _____ Sierra Turkey + Caesar Salad
_____ Ham & Swiss + Classic Salad _____ Ham & Swiss + Caesar Salad
_____ Mediterranean Veggie + Classic Salad _____ Mediterranean Veggie + Caesar Salad

Cost is \$15. Mail this registration form plus a check for \$15 payable to AAUW-IL, to Carolyn Schjelderup, 11305 - 102nd Ave. Ct., Coal Valley, IL 61240, to arrive no later than **Saturday, October 1, 2016.**

Questions? Contact Carolyn Schjelderup, 309-231-1874 or cs_schj@yahoo.com.

**REGISTRATION FOR NORTHERN CONFERENCE
(October 22, 2016)**

Name _____ Branch _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Cost is \$15. A hot breakfast buffet is included. Send check payable to AAUW-IL to Danielle Byron, 801 E Wilson Ave, Lombard IL 60148, to arrive no later than October 1st. Questions? daniellebyron@gmail.com or 630-520-3237

Illinois Link

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

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Message from the President

Sallie Miller



I hope your branch is off to a good start for 2016-2017 with many exciting mission-driven programs and activities planned for the year. This issue of the LINK contains your guide to fall activities for AAUW-IL. The new AAUW-IL board met in July and mapped out a plan for two Fall Conferences--one on October 15 in Springfield at the Lincoln Public Library, and one on October 22 at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines. Registration materials are included in this issue on the previous page. You may attend either location, but most members from Districts 1, 2 and 3 will find Springfield convenient and those from Districts 4 and 5 will find Des Plaines convenient.

The AAUW-IL board voted to continue to award Local Engagement Grants (Leg Up), Start Smart grants, and Community Action grants for two years through the end of FY2018. The deadlines for applying for Leg Up grants are November 30 and June 30. We hope your branch will consider applying for one of these. You can find information and an application on the AAUW-IL website - <http://aauw-il.aauw.net>.

Mark your calendars for the **AAUW-IL State Convention** in Champaign on May 5 and 6, 2017. June 14 -17 is the AAUW National Convention at the Renaissance in Washington, D.C. The TRIO program is designed to encourage members who have never attended a State or National convention. Under this program a member pays one-third of the cost with the State and the Branch each paying one-third. The AAUW-IL board voted to continue the program for the 2017 and 2018 State Conventions and the 2017 National Convention. One third of the expenses is roughly equivalent to the registration costs at state and/or national conventions.

By now you should have received your initial copy of “**AAUW-IL Connection**”, an electronic newsletter, and a new way the AAUW-IL board will let all AAUW Illinois members know what is happening. We hope you will find the information interesting and pertinent to you.

The **BEST Awards** continue this year and we encourage each branch to use the application as a tool to make the branch better and create issue-driven programs, mission-based activities and fundraising for AAUW Funds. The form is located on the state website.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at AAUW events this year!

Sallie Miller
AAUW-IL President

C: 217-722-9029
millersallie@hotmail.com

Your 2016-2017 AAUW-IL State Board



2017 AGENT OF CHANGE AWARD

The process for selecting our next recipient for this prestigious award will begin in January 2017. Branch presidents will receive a packet with instructions, criteria, nomination forms, and a list of past winners. The deadline for nominations will be March 1, 2017. **Conversations regarding possible candidates should not be delayed.** Nominees should be outstanding models who have actively promoted change in education, equity, diversity, and/or public policy. The nominee's accomplishments should show direct involvement with the member's branch and /or other AAUW national initiatives.

This award emphasizes promotion of AAUW's mission and purpose as well as bringing visibility to AAUW.

- Nominations may come from individual members or branch boards.
- Current AAUW board members may be nominated.
- There is no longer a “during the past year” requirement for accomplishments.
- Branches may re-submit previously-nominated individuals.

For more information, please contact Sharon Lee, AAUW-IL District 2 Director:
sforanlee@sbcglobal.net or (H) 217-422-8076, (cell)217-620-9985.

2016 AGENT OF CHANGE



Andrea (Andi) Danis was the 2016 recipient of the AAUW-IL, Inc. Agent of Change Award. Andi has been a member of the Aurora Branch since 2000. She first joined the branch because of her love of books, participating in the “Books by Night” group. She soon became aware of AAUW's purpose and long history of accomplishments. Since that time, Andi has served as her branch Membership VP, two terms as Program VP, and two terms as President. She has also served on the Illinois State Board as LAF Chair for two terms, District 4 Co-Director, and as Illinois State President (2012-2014). Currently she serves on the State Board as the Nominating Committee Chair and as the TRIO Coordinator.

Andi's commitment to AAUW brought her to Mutual Ground, Inc. This non-profit organization provides programs that focus on safety, healing, and prevention for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Her commitment to this organization began when she wondered, “How can the mission of AAUW ever be implemented without a person being safe and protected?” She believes that women and children, and at times men, must first have support and safety in their community and have genuine protection within the courts in order to

have any chance to improve their own lives. Andi has just finished serving a second term as President of the Board of Directors of Mutual Ground, Inc.

For the past twenty-five years, Danis has been a full-time staff member in the School of Education at Aurora University and an active participant in campus life and on committees. Even with the demands in her position at AU, she has made time for community activism to support AAUW's mission and Mutual Ground. Andi's philosophy has been to embrace immediate activism and full-bodied commitment to all she undertakes.

Andi Danis is an outstanding AAUW member! She has established her genuine commitment to AAUW's mission with service, leadership, and action. She has been a catalyst for positive change in society through her activism to improve the lives of women and girls and to help them achieve their potential. In addition, her collaboration with Aurora University, Mutual Ground, and the larger community to promote education and equity for women has brought visibility to AAUW. It was an honor to present Andrea Danis with AAUW's most prestigious award, the 2016 Agent of Change.

Congratulations, Andi!



GENDER EQUITY FUND UPDATE

The Gender Equity Fund, (a 501(c)(3) formed in 1997 by interested and involved Illinois AAUW Members, continues working for equal opportunities for women and girls so they can reach their highest potential.

On August 26, the Fund sponsored the screening of EQUAL MEANS EQUAL that discussed the passage of a constitutional amendment on women's equality. The film was shown at the Logan Square Theater in Chicago.

As of this writing, the Speaker's Bureau has scheduled 11 engagements for the 2016-2017 year. More GEF Speaker's Bureau details will be presented at the Fall Conferences but some of the specifics are included here. Since we are not encouraging bookings during the worst winter months, we are limiting travel in most cases to fall and spring. Groups (including AAUW Branches or other interested organized assemblies) can choose from the following subjects that discuss AAUW's research: BARRIERS and BIAS, PAY EQUITY, and SOLVING THE EQUATION—STEM. While travel expenses in most cases will be covered by GEF, we encourage groups to support the presentation by securing AV availability and by providing appropriate meals for the speakers. The GEF is a non-profit, and as such our speaker will accept, but not solicit, donations.

Our current directors are: Nann Blaine Hilyard, Mary Ann Dion, Carol Heisler, Sallie Miller, Erica Gonzales, Andi Danis, Ruth Sweetser, Alice Huebner, Susan Wood, and Jennifer Urish. In addition, Lisa Cherry and Donna Sproston have volunteered on our speaker's subcommittee to help out with some of the speaking engagements.

Please contact Carol Heisler at 815-455-1473 or Andi Danis at 630-892-6366 for more details.

**Certain parameters apply. Ask for details. Although the Gender Equity Fund depends on donations, the speaker will not be soliciting reimbursement or fundraise from your group.*



Membership Matters



Carolyn

Are you a Membership VP? Do you receive *AAUW Membership Matters*? You should automatically be receiving this monthly. In my email it shows the sender as Christy Jones, AAUW. If you are not receiving this, please e-mail connect@aauw.org with the name of the newsletter and your name, AAUW member ID or zip code, and preferred e-mail address to subscribe.

There are 3 points to the Membership cycle:

- Recruitment
- Engagement
- Retention

Each of these is important. In this article, let's consider the issue of member retention. Member retention is the job of the Membership VP AND the Branch officers AND other members.

Here are a few basic concepts to get us started—

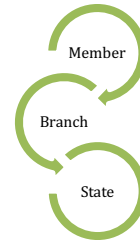
- We should each, individually, encourage other members' involvement in our Branch. Research shows it takes up to two years to become a really committed member.
- Develop a plan to encourage board and branch members to help new members feel welcome.
- Provide information about AAUW's mission and goals. Express that even if the local branch is not heavily involved in some areas of interest, the national organization is, and much work is being done on our behalf.
- Learn the expectations of new members. Recently in AAUW-IL's new *Connections*

newsletter I mentioned the results of a recent AAUW survey of its members in which members were asked why they joined AAUW. The part that I thought was most interesting is that, generally speaking, those under the age of 50 join for different reasons than those who are older. In order to retain a member we need to know why she joined. Was it to meet new people? Participate locally in meaningful programs and activities? Or another reason. How do we know? We ask them. It doesn't need to be a formal, statistical survey—have a conversation with new and “seasoned” members so they know you are interested. Listen to the response.

- Coordinate activities that are within the interest area of new AND seasoned members.

The national AAUW website is a great resource that provides many good hints and suggestions for activities to retain Branch members. Look under Resources, and search for Member Retention. There is a twenty-five-minute taped webinar on the subject of Member Retention. Pour yourself a cup of tea and listen! The website is very helpful. Please take some time to review it.

Carolyn Berning
State Membership Vice President



TRIO Program RETURNING for 2016-2017

WHO?

Members who have never attended a State or National Convention are eligible. Stipend recipients will be paired with mentors to make sure they get the most out of the Convention experience.

WHAT?

The Trio program is a stipend to be used as an incentive for first-time attendees to the AAUW-IL State Conventions in May 2017, and/or the AAUW National Convention in June 2017.

WHERE? WHEN?

The State Convention in 2017 (May 5-6 at the I Hotel in Champaign, IL)

The National Convention in 2017 (June 14-17 at the Renaissance in Washington DC)

WHY?

The State Board feels that attending conventions is a great way for members to feel connected to AAUW and to the AAUW mission.

HOW?

For State Convention: Branches may designate one first-time attendee; the State agrees to pay the registration fee (estimated at 1/3 of the total convention expense) with the suggestion that the branch pledge to pay 1/3 and the member pay the remaining 1/3. The designated applicant will indicate on the convention registration form found in the Spring LINK Newsletter that she is using TRIO. Stipend recipients will be paired with experienced AAUW members who will share all the convention details. Further details and registration information will be provided in the Spring LINK.

For National Convention: Branches may designate one first-time attendee; the State agrees to rebate the best value registration fee of \$549, available from October 1, 2016 to January 14, 2017. The amount rebated is approximately 1/3 of the total convention expense. The additional TRIO partners, (the branch and the member) are each encouraged to contribute 1/3 as well. The designated attendee will register online at www.aauw.org and pay the full amount due for registration and for any extra events that are reserved. Once registered, the member will submit the rebate form that is available on the AAUW-IL, Inc. website, this LINK newsletter (see next page), or from the TRIO Coordinator, to have reimbursement confirmed. The form requires the signature of the attendee's branch president. Each stipend recipient is expected to attend and fully participate in the convention sessions as included in the basic registration. Confirmed rebates will be processed after the convention has concluded. Recipients will be paired with experienced AAUW members who will share all the convention details.

What's Next?

- Details and registration information for attending the 2017 State Convention will be in the Spring Edition of the LINK.
- Registration for the 2017 National Convention is expected to open on October 1, 2016. Please see www.aauw.org for details and registration. For rebate information, please see the state website or contact the TRIO Coordinator.

Contact current TRIO Coordinator, Carol Heisler, at carolheisler@gmail.com or 815-455-1473 with questions or for more information!

AAUW-IL, Inc. website: www.aauw-il.aauw.net.

Note: The State Board has set aside reasonable funding for the TRIO program, but reserves the right to limit the number of attendees if the budgeted amount is exceeded.

2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION TRIO ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FORM

If your branch is sponsoring you for the TRIO Program, please fill out the form below, attach a copy of your convention registration, and return to Carol Heisler, TRIO Coordinator, via email to carolheisler@gmail.com or snail mail to Carol Heisler, 461 Rockland Road, Crystal Lake IL 60014. You will receive confirmation of your participation within 1-2 weeks via email (if given) or phone.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ BRANCH: _____

BRANCH POSITION: _____ (Mark N/A if no position)

Please mark an X on the following lines to indicate that you have read and understand the terms of the TRIO program, and the process for confirmation and reimbursement:

____ I verify that this will be the first National convention that I have attended.

____ I verify that my branch is sponsoring me for TRIO and will assist me in attending this convention.

____ I understand that TRIO will fund as many attendees as possible, but that assistance is not guaranteed until I receive confirmation of this application (within 1-2 weeks of receipt.)

____ I understand that, if confirmed, I must attend and participate in the full convention as covered by the Best Value registration fee. I have attached a copy of my registration to this form.

____ I understand that, if confirmed, the 2017 Best Value registration amount of \$549 will be rebated by AAUW-IL after I have attended and fully participated in this convention.

____ I agree to supply the TRIO Coordinator with a completed survey of my experience after the convention.
(This form will be sent to the participant in June/July 2017.)

TRIO Coordinator: Carol Heisler, carolheisler@gmail.com or 815-455-1473 for questions or more information!

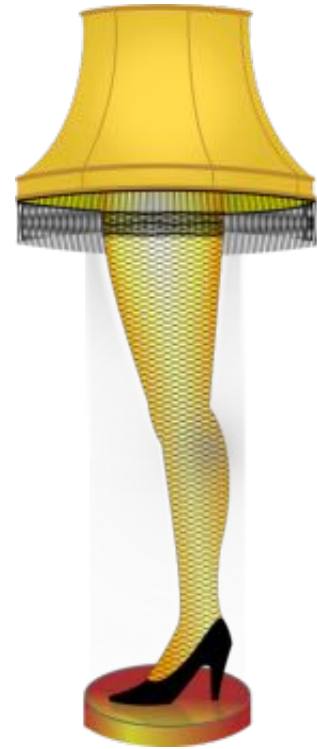
More Local Engagement Grant (LEG-Up) Recipients!

AAUW-IL is pleased to announce that the following branches were awarded Local Engagement Grants (LEG-Up Grants) and Start Smart Grants for their upcoming projects:

- The Jersey-Calhoun Counties Branch was awarded a Start Smart Grant for a salary negotiation workshop at Lewis & Clark Community College this fall.
- The Chicago, Inc. Branch was given a LEG-Up for their Jane Addams Day Celebration at Hull House. On December 10, 2016, the branch, in partnership with the Working Women's History Project, Hull House Museum, and suburban AAUW branches will celebrate Addams' contributions to history with historical reenactments and music.
- The Crystal Lake Area Branch was given a LEG-Up for REEL LIFE!, an ongoing film project in partnership with the Crystal Lake Public Library. Every quarter, the library will screen a current film with strong female leads or director. After the film, there will be a discussion with the audience on how women were depicted in the film, and the feminist issues and implications for women's equity.
- The Elgin Area Branch received a LEG-Up for their program called *Slave Quilts and the African American Diaspora* at the Elgin Historical Museum. Trish Williams will speak and present a trunk show of quilts from her own collection.
- The Alton Wood River Branch was given a LEG-Up for the project GEMS@SWIC, expanding a long standing STEM project for girls with Southwestern Illinois College.
- The Wheaton Glen Ellyn Branch received a LEG-Up for their monthly STEM Workshops for students in grades 2-9 and a monthly mother-daughter science club in partnership with the public libraries in their community.

Does your branch have an exciting new project like these in the planning stages? Could your branch use a little help to make the project a reality?

If the answer to these 2 questions is yes, take the time to apply NOW for a Local Engagement Grant (LEG-Up) from AAUW-IL. Money is available to help branches fund exciting, mission-based programs and projects. The application is simple to complete. The next deadline is November 30, 2016. For more information, go to the state website at <http://aauw-il.aauw.net/> and click on Grants for Branches at the top of the page.



Bylaws and Policy

Barbara Simon, Director



Barbara

For my first article as State Bylaws chair, I have to be sort of a good news/ bad news messenger. The good news is that out of all our Illinois branches, 94% have finished revising their bylaws as directed by the last national convention. The bad news is that AAUW legal counsel has mandated further bylaws changes.

AAUW National apologizes for asking us to revise bylaws twice in one year, but feels that it is necessary to protect our brand and to insure compliance with IRS rules. The national chairperson, Sandy Camillo, has assured everyone that the mandated changes in language will be simpler and shorter. The new model bylaws will be ready in September, and a timeline will be suggested for implementation. These changes will not require a vote of the branch members but will require that we all get busy with our cut and paste skills in a timely fashion.

In the meantime, Happy Fall and enjoy all your AAUW activities!



Marv Ann

AAUW Funds

Mary Ann Dion, Director

In the June 30, 2016 report from AAUW, Illinois branches contributed \$57,966.54 to all funds combined. We realize that many branches send in their contribution toward the end of the year. However, please remember that to count for the year 2016, donations must be received in the AAUW office in Washington, D.C. by December 31. Send checks no later than December 15th, with a completed Contribution Form, available at www.aauw.org. If you have any questions, please contact me at maryann.dion@sbcglobal.net.

The current **Charting the Course** campaign began January 1st and ends December 31st. There are two goals for the **Charting the Course** campaign: Financially, the campaign will raise \$1 million in unrestricted funds by December 2016; the campaign is also shifting AAUW's philanthropic culture from restricted to unrestricted giving, which provides AAUW with the dexterity to act quickly in the face of future challenges that face women and girls.

Unrestricted funds can be put to work where and when they are most useful. These funds help AAUW avoid having both "overfunded" and "underfunded" areas in the same year, a restriction that can keep us from reaching our full mission potential. Except for fellowships and grants, all AAUW programs and projects depend on unrestricted funds to operate. These programs and projects make up the vast majority of AAUW's yearly operating budget. Unrestricted gifts help incubate, disseminate, and grow our community-based programs such as: Tech Trek and Tech Savvy, Start Smart and Work Smart, and Elect Her, as well as our popular initiatives like the Legal Advocacy Fund, the National Conference for Women Student Leaders, the AAUW National Convention and our esteemed research.

During the first half of this year, Illinois branches contributed a total of \$31,522.73 to **Charting the Course**, with Lombard Area Branch leading the campaign with donations of \$14,794 and Deerfield Branch in second place with \$9,016. Please give **Charting the Course – Fund 4402**, your consideration before the end of the year.

Lastly, I will be attending both District meetings, so we can also discuss funds at that time.



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR STATE OFFICERS, FY 2017**
Andi Danis, Nominating Committee Chair

Happy Fall! Time to think about our talented AAUW members who can help lead our branches and state by serving on the AAUW-IL, Inc. State Board!

Nominations are now being accepted for the offices of:

President Elect (one year as President Elect followed by two years as President)

Membership Vice-President(s) (two-year term)

Secretary (two-year term)

I am pleased to introduce the members of the Nominating Committee:

Chair: **Andrea (Andi) Danis**
H: 630-892-6366 C: 630-606-6366
District 4 danishouse@sbcglobal.net

District 1: **Sharon Jenkins**
H: 618-806-9259 sjenkins1918@yahoo.com

District 2: **Alice Huebner**
H: 217-876-1446 ahuebner@prodigy.net

District 3: **Eileen Fesco**
H: 815-433-7323 fescoa@aol.com

District 5: **Marla Kim Benziger**
H: 847-945-9081 marlakim2@aol.com

Please contact any of the above members of the Nominating Committee if you know of someone who might be interested in serving at the state level, INCLUDING YOURSELF! **Nominations are due to the committee by November 30, 2016!!**

Thanks!



Andi



Public Policy

Marcia Wherry & Jo-An Takamoto Sabonjian
Public Policy Co-Directors



There is Much Work to be Done!

Election season is again upon us and there is much work to do from now until November 8. AAUW members are strongly encouraged to vote for the candidates of their choice, and to join branch leadership and members of women's coalition groups to promote:

- Voter registration - Serve as a deputy registrar. The Illinois Board of Elections lists AAUW and its branches as a bona fide civic organization; this allows branch presidents to send a referral list of members to be appointed deputy registrars at the county election office. Voter registration may be conducted as an individual effort or with others at community functions, forums, and schools where new voters can register, and previously-registered voters may report changes, such as a new address, to their registration status.
- Voter education - Use AAUW's voter guides to compare candidates. Voter guides may be used as a public service and are not intended to endorse any political candidate or political party. Guides for the federal races for President and Illinois Senator are now available on www.aauw.org/actionfund/votereducation/voterguides. Branches may print and distribute these to members and the public. Research is underway to prepare similar voter guides that compare voting records or positions taken by candidates for state legislative offices where the incumbent faces opposition.
- Get Out The Vote (GOTV) - Vote early or on election day (not both). Members are encouraged to work as election judges or to volunteer as poll watchers or to take somebody to register and/or vote in the November 8 election.

The AAUW Public Policy Program for 2015-17 includes nineteen priorities under the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls. We have a continuing push in Illinois for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, STEM education, and pay equity. Other priorities that we have the opportunity to address are breaking through barriers and bias to improve the status of women in leadership, enforcement of Title IX, and social justice. An issue relating to Title IX compliance is receiving attention because many school districts do not report incidents of sexual harassment and bullying. AAUW's analysis of the 2013-14 Civil Rights Data Collection report from the US Department of Education shows that 67 percent of Illinois' 930 school districts reported zero instances of sexual harassment - the same percentage as the national average in the report. Our concern is that AAUW research findings indicate over half of all girls in grades 7-12 reported some form of harassment. State President Sallie Miller and AAUW VP for Government Relations, Lisa Maatz, brought this to the attention of our governor and requested corrective action. Federal legislation has also been introduced to provide more resources and technical assistance to support gender equity work in schools and to help reduce this injustice by more accurate reporting and follow-up.

AAUW Action Network provides succinct information through action blasts on federal and state issues. This tool is known as the Two-Minute Activist. Your voice can be heard when you use the links to send a letter about the selected issue to your elected officials. Take advantage of this type of communication by using

www.aauw.org/actionnetwork to sign up. Also, check the box below your entry to receive the Washington Update, a weekly e-bulletin for members only.

Update from the State Capitol - Notes from Jenni Purdue, our AAUW lobbyist:

A majority of the 2016 spring session was devoted to the unresolved FY16 budget (which remains fairly unresolved at the current time) - but there were some areas where the general assembly was able to move a few items through both chambers and push a few issues forward. The state's past due bills are racking up around 10 billion dollars right now, and our structural deficit is hovering around 7.8 billion. Hopefully during veto session after the election, the Governor and General Assembly can work together to pass revenue increases, and to compromise on what cuts need to be made in order to go into 2017 (and the 2nd half of FY17) on more sound fiscal footing.

1. Bills supported by AAUW and numerous coalition groups passed both houses and were recently signed by Governor Rauner:

- SB1564, the Health Care Right of Conscience Act, requires that all health centers must make patients aware of all of their health treatment options and where to obtain them, even if that health center does not provide that treatment for religious reasons. This bill was an agreed-to bill by many health advocates, including those who advocate for reproductive health, and the Catholic Church. There has been vocal opposition from pregnancy crisis centers, and there is currently a lawsuit pending, brought on their behalf about this legislation.
- HB5576, the Contraceptive Coverage bill, requires that all birth control methods should be covered by insurance for free, not just whatever the insurance deems as acceptable. This will give women more options to choose from and/or allow them to be able to stay on a birth control method that works for them without extra fees from their insurance company.
- SB2221 increases oversight on DNA testing of sexual assault kits in police custody and sets up a reporting mechanism for local police departments as well as establishes a way to better track those who have committed multiple assaults.

2. Two bills awaiting gubernatorial approval or a veto at time of this writing are

- HB5528 concerns police training around domestic violence, as it strengthens the law around domestic violence training that officers receive. This bill passed both houses unanimously and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- SB730 increases child care for those receiving TANF. This passed along partisan lines, and is sitting on the Governor's desk. It may be vetoed by the Governor.

3. Two resolutions were introduced and passed for Equal Pay Day - HR1021 in the House and SR114 in the Senate. Senator Heather Steans introduced SJRCA 24 for the Equal Rights Amendment.

During session, we appreciated the response from members in contacting legislators and the governor for action on the state budget. In July, the AAUW Action Network requested calls to the governor's office to urge his signature on HB1564 - coalition groups were assigned different weeks to make their contacts so continuing pressure was successfully applied, as noted above. Thank You, All.

The fall veto session is scheduled for six days - November 25 - 27, 29 - 30, 2016 and December 1, 2016.

REMEMBER - IT'S MY VOTE, I WILL BE HEARD 2016

College/University Relations

Deanie Brown, C/U Director



Deanie

Greetings to all Branch College and University Relations Chairs! I am very grateful to begin serving and supporting your efforts throughout the state, and I am very excited about partnering with you in this way! I hope to join you in increasing the numbers and participation of students, staff, and faculty members from colleges and universities in our respective communities, while also strengthening or renewing ties to partner institutions.

I'm also looking forward to supporting our presentation of Start Smart and Work Smart programs, designed to assist women entering or continuing in the workforce in identifying and communicating their worth in salary negotiations. We have great women already trained to present workshops, and I hope many of you will consider joining them.

Did you know that “over the course of her working life, a woman will get paid roughly \$1 million less than a man – simply BECAUSE she’s a woman?!” Let’s continue to work to change that, by honoring our AAUW mission and giving college women, and women continuing in the workforce, the confidence and skills needed to benchmark and negotiate salary demands and close the gender pay gap!

In the meantime, I look forward to meeting you or meeting you again at our Fall Conferences, with all best regards until. And to my Springfield, Illinois, Branch, yes, that really is me in the photograph, from long, long ago – having only old pictures around is one dubious benefit of avoiding the camera! Cheers,

Deanie Brown
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TO:



OF ILLINOIS

Save the dates!

**Northern Fall Conference – Oct. 15
Southern Fall Conference– Oct. 22**

AAUW-IL State Convention

May 5-6, 2017

I Hotel & Conference Center, Champaign, IL

AAUW National Convention

June 14-17, 2017

Renaissance, Washington, D.C.