

Two Fall Conferences! **(Choose the date that's best for you)**

Which Fall Conference date best fits your calendar? AAUW-IL, Inc., will again have a northern location and a southern one this year. **Are you new to AAUW, or just a potential first-time attendee?** Fall Conference provides a perfect opportunity to learn more about AAUW's mission. **Previous attendee?** Then you know that it's a great time to network with women who share your enthusiasm for AAUW.

NORTHERN CONFERENCE

9:00am - noon

Saturday, October 10

Oakton Community College
(Entrance 37, Room 1610)

1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines



Come and hear tips from the experts!

- Start Smart
- Membership - how to gain members and how to retain them
- What's new in Public Policy?

And come and write your elevator speech, so you will always be ready when someone asks you, "AAUW – what's that all about?"

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

11:00am – 2:00pm

Saturday, October 24

Lincoln Public Library

Carnegie Room North

326 S. 7th Street, Springfield



- Ample time for Networking with members of other branches and districts to discuss successful programs and fundraising
- Marketing Your Branch
- Awards and Grants
- Smart Start
- Public Policy
- STEM and more

(Registration Forms on Page 3)

Coming at the Fall Conferences.....

More information on the Bylaws changes!!

*At our Illinois State Convention
business meeting, membership will be
voting on a Bylaws amendment that
reduces the size of our state board.*



*Get details in the Spring Link
or attend the Fall Conference in your area.*

REGISTRATION FOR SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

Name _____ Branch _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Cost is \$15. There will be a light morning snack upon arrival, and lunch will be provided. Send a check payable to AAUW-IL to Donna Sproston, 1376 - 200th Avenue, Monmouth 61462, to arrive no later than **Saturday, October 10**. Questions? sproston@grics.net or 309-563-6782.

Please check your sandwich choice:

<input type="checkbox"/> Ham sandwich on white	<input type="checkbox"/> Ham sandwich on wheat
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey sandwich on white	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey sandwich on wheat
<input type="checkbox"/> Veggie/cheese sandwich on white	<input type="checkbox"/> Veggie/cheese sandwich on wheat

REGISTRATION FOR NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Name _____ Branch _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Cost is \$15. A hot breakfast buffet is included. Send check payable to AAUW-IL to Erika Nicketakis, 4378 W. Lawn Avenue, Gurnee, 60031, to arrive no later than **September 23**. Questions? Daffodil39@aol.com or 847-623-2342.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR NORTHERN CONFERENCE ATTENDEES:

Please join the directors of the GENDER EQUITY FUND after the Northern Fall Conference on October 10, 2015. We need your input on the future of this wonderful resource. Our plan is to have a discussion over lunch (Dutch treat) to explore future plans. Watch for more details at the Conference and think about attending! We're looking for your ideas and inspiration.

GEF Directors—Ruth Sweetser, Andi Danis, Phyllis Green, Millie Rathberger, Erica Gonzales and AAUW-IL President Carol Heisler.

Illinois Link

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Message from the President

By Carol Heisler



Welcome to the 2015-2016 AAUW year! This issue of the LINK contains your guide to fall activities for AAUW-IL. The talented and dedicated members of the Board met in July and mapped out a plan for two Fall Conferences--one at Oakton Community College on October 10 and one at the Lincoln Library (sometimes called the Public Library of Springfield) on October 24. Registration materials are included in this issue. You may attend either location but most members from Districts 1, 2 and 3 will find Springfield convenient and those from Districts 4 & 5 will find Des Plaines convenient.

The state directory and other member resources are available on the website: <http://aauw-il.aauw.net>. Be sure to access reference materials by clicking on members only and entering the password of equityil. By virtue of our affiliate agreements with National AAUW and IRS regulations, we conform to the Fundraising and Local Scholarship policies. It's "fascinating" reading, of course, but necessary to keep us current and legal.

The **LEG UP Grant Application** is now on the website. If your branch is looking for funds to support a program or activity, consider applying for a grant from AAUW-IL.

Mark your calendars for the **AAUW-IL State Convention** in Schaumburg on April 29 and 30, 2016. We will be trying something different this year by returning to our educational roots. We'll be staying at the Hyatt Regency across from Woodfield Mall, but our Saturday activities will be at Roosevelt University just down the street. This location lends itself to combining the AAUW meeting with family shopping, so set aside the weekend in Northern Illinois.

We have extended the **TRIO** program for our 2016 convention! Under the TRIO Stipend Program, one first-time convention attendee per branch will qualify for a waived registration fee (as long as her branch approves!) Details will be explained on the Convention Registration form in the Spring LINK.

Last year Heidi Koberstine (District 4 Director) accepted pictures showing branches in action—from used book sales, to interesting speakers, to Tech Savvy to Start Smart workshops. We hope you will share your **branch photos** with Heidi so we can show them off at the State Convention. Email them to Heidi at Heidi.Koberstine@sbcglobal.net.

The **BEST Awards** continue this year and we know that each branch will 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 also located on the state website.

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

Carol A. Heisler
carolheisler@gmail.com 815-455-1473 (h) 815-814-3180 (c)

2015 AGENT OF CHANGE



Anna Moeller is the 2015 recipient of the AAUW-IL, Inc., Agent of Change Award.

Moeller is a member of the Elgin Area chapter of AAUW. She has generously and conscientiously mentored younger (and older!) women aspirants to public office both in one-on-one meetings and in more formal programs.

In March 2014, Anna was appointed Representative of the Illinois 43rd district after her predecessor's resignation. In November 2014 she was elected to that seat in her own right. As a member of the House Appropriations General Services Committee, she demonstrates her awareness that economic problems disproportionately affect women, even while "seeking input from community stakeholders and constituents about how we can develop a balanced budget that doesn't decimate the services on which Illinois taxpayers rely." This mission is especially important in her district, which comprises Elgin

and surrounding areas in Chicago's western suburbs. Within the district, she sponsors many programs for women, including a self-defense workshop for women. She and her daughters are regular servers at community charity dinners and other events that benefit the less fortunate.

From 2011 until 2014, Moeller served on the City Council in Elgin. Among her many initiatives as a council member were co-hosting a listening meeting with small business owners concerned about rising taxes and declining city services, advocating for smarter land use, and improving regional transportation.

Prior to her election to the City Council, Anna was Executive Director of the McKinley County Board of Governments, a non-profit organization that provides programs, services and legislative advocacy for municipalities and other local government agencies in McHenry County.

Congratulations, Anna!

Do you know an Agent of Change?

The process for selecting our next recipient for this prestigious award will begin in January 2016. Branch presidents will receive a packet with instructions, criteria, forms, and a list of past winners. Since the deadline for nominations will be March 1, 2016, **conversations regarding possible candidates should not be delayed.**

- Nominations may come from individual members or branch boards.
- Current AAUW-IL board members may be nominated.
- There is no longer a "during the past year" requirement for accomplishments.

For more information contact Mary Lillesve, mlillesve@gmail.com, 651-260-8318.



Membership Matters



Carolyn

Are you a new Membership Vice President (MVP)? A returning MVP who is planning to do better this year? Or, a member who thinks WE need to work on membership? Whichever—let's chart a plan for the year.

The membership year really begins annually in March, but September is a good time to get organized.

In my mind there seem to be two sides to the MVP job. One side is the record keeping and working with the Finance person to process the dues. The other side—is the marketing, recruitment and retention piece. A membership committee is a good way to cover all the bases.

First things to do:

- Familiarize yourself with the website (aauw.org), especially the Resources section. I know...it takes time, but it is important to know what's out there—
 - job description, seems basic but good to keep in mind.
 - Member Services Database (MSD),
 - Branch Dues Report Process - a/k/a Choices for Paying Dues,
 - And a webinar—just click and listen. I listened to a pre-recorded one and it provided a lot of interesting points.

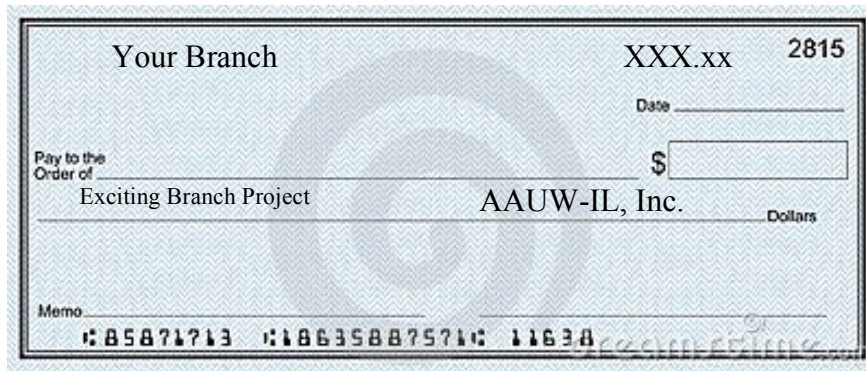
**P.S. Website suggestion –use the search area if you can't find something easily. It is a VERY GOOD search process and takes the frustration out of trying to find something!

- Sign up for *Membership Matters*, a monthly publication. You are notified by email when a new issue is available. It is very informative.
- Learn about the membership discounts. Shape the Future allows new members to pay 50% of the national dues when they join on-the-spot during an AAUW public event. There is even a Quick Guide to Get Started. What's better than a SALE!
- In my experience word of mouth is the best way to get new members. Talk about past or upcoming programs or meetings, scholarships, or advocacy for girls. Develop a 30-second "speech" that says why AAUW is special and is an organization that does important work.

I hope this gets you started on a very good year for your AAUW Branch. Contact me if you have questions.

Carolyn Berning Membership Vice President
217-529-7833
cdberning@aol.com





- ✓ **Does your branch have an exciting new project in the works?**
- ✓ **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 and the next deadline is **November 30, 2015**. 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.

Need some ideas? ·

- STEM Conferences for Girls ·
- Pay Equity Rallies ·
- Workplace Harassment Workshops ·
- Candidate Nights or GOTV efforts ·
- Legislative Forums ·
- Introduce AAUW research to the public. ·
- Panel discussions on subjects of interest:
 - Social Security and Women
 - Women and Pensions
 - Financial Planning for Women
 - Women's Health
 - International Status of Women
 - AAUW and the United Nations
 - ERA
 - Social programs in the State
 - Homeless Families
 - Battered Women

What else can your branch think of?

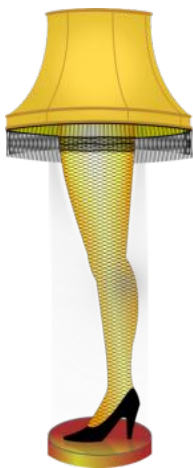
Read About First Leg-Up Grant Recipients on next Page

**AAUW-IL is excited to announce
the first recipients
of a Local Engagement Grant
(LEG-Up)!**

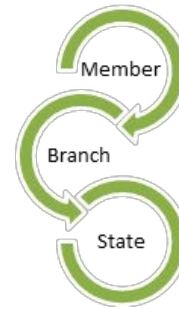
The **Chicago, Inc. Branch** was given a LEG-Up for their Jane Addams Day Celebration at Hull House. On December 5, 2015, the branch, in partnership with the Working Women's History Project, Hull House Museum, and suburban AAUW branches will celebrate Addams' contributions to history with historical 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.

Would your branch like to be the next to be given a LEG-Up? The simple application is on the website ([www. http://aauw-il.aauw.net/](http://www.aauw-il.aauw.net/), under the Grants for Branches tab).



Back by Popular Demand...



It's not too early to start thinking about applying for the TRIO Stipend for next spring's convention!

It's easy to do—find a member in your branch who has never attended a convention. The branch needs to commit to paying one-third of her registration costs, the member pays one-third, and the State picks up the rest. What could be easier?

Conventions are great ways to meet other members from across the state and brainstorm with them for new programming and fundraising ideas for your branch.

**Conventions have
amazing speakers and breakout sessions
& the only way to take advantage of them
is to come to convention!**

SAVE THE DATE!

**ARE YOU READY
FOR ACTION?**



Join us on April 29 & 30.

*Hyatt Regency Schaumburg and
Roosevelt University Schaumburg Campus*

AAUW IL STATE CONVENTION

Bylaws

Sallie Miller, Chair



Sallie

Mandatory Conformance of AAUW State/Branch Bylaws with 2015 AAUW Bylaws

The 2015 AAUW bylaw amendments, voted on and approved by the membership, require mandatory revisions of all state and branch bylaws to conform these bylaws to those of AAUW. The Mandatory Conformance Memo lists the revisions that **must** be made to state and branch bylaws for them to conform to AAUW bylaws. **These mandatory revisions do not need a vote of the state or branch membership.** The updated 2015 AAUW Bylaws are posted on the AAUW website. **By May 15, 2016, all branch and state presidents must submit their bylaws electronically to AAUW** via connect@aauw.org to be maintained at national headquarters as required by the IRS.

The Mandatory Conformance of AAUW State/Branch Bylaws with 2015 AAUW Bylaws is available on the AAUW-IL website <http://aauw-il.aauw.net>. It is available as a Word document so that the changes can be easily made to the branch bylaws.

Your 2014-2015 AAUW-IL State Board





International Affairs
Donna Sproston, co-director



UNWomen

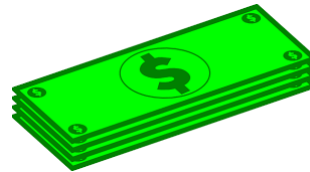
Donna

UNWomen was established by the UN General Assembly in 2010 and promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide. This new entity replaces several previous groups, including UNIFEM, and sharpens the impact of existing projects in other entities such as UNICEF. In September 2014, UNWomen Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson spoke before the UN to launch the HeForShe initiative which invites men and boys to join the equity and empowerment movement. Her speech quickly went viral on the Internet, and she has been applauded for her endorsement of feminism, and also for her remarks addressing masculinity. "Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive. Both men and women should feel free to be strong. It is time that we all perceive gender on a spectrum, instead of two sets of opposing sides." HeForShe invites all of us to work for equity.

AAUW Funds
Susan Wood, Director



Susan



Illinois #2 in AAUW Funds Donations

With \$148,096.34 in donations from branches and individuals, Illinois was second only to California in total donations to the AAUW Funds in 2014. Thanks to the many who designated a total of \$20,752.66 toward the Lois List American Fellowship (#4282). That fund was up to \$59,816.66 as of May 31, 2015, well on the way to reaching our goal of \$100,000 by 2023. Please continue to support this last remaining unfinished fellowship established in Illinois.

AAUW nationally has been encouraging unrestricted donations to the AAUW Fund (#9110), which was the #1 fund for 2014 Illinois donations, with \$56,133. The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) received \$21,292.58, and the rest of the donations were split among 21 other funds.

After Kristen Galles, an LAF attorney, spoke at the State Convention on May 2, 2015, donations for LAF were collected totaling \$3,460 from 31 members. Also at the convention, we raised \$404 for the Lois List American Fellowship (\$149 from the book auction and \$255 from yoga). Thanks to all our generous members for their outstanding support of the AAUW Funds. Please remember that to count for 2015, donations must be received at the AAUW office in Washington DC by December 31. Send checks with a completed Contribution Form, available at www.aauw.org. If you have any questions, please contact me at swood710@sbcglobal.net.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR STATE OFFICERS, FY 2016
Lois Strom, Nominating Committee Chair

Nominations for the offices of **Vice President of Program** (Co-Chairs and two-year term); **Director of Finance-Elect** (one year as Finance-Elect and automatically succeeds the Director of Finance in the following odd-numbered year); **AAUW Funds Director** (two-year term); and **Chair of Nominating Committee** (two-year term) are due November 30, 2015.

Please contact one of the following members of the Nominating Committee with your recommendation(s) by November 30, 2015.:

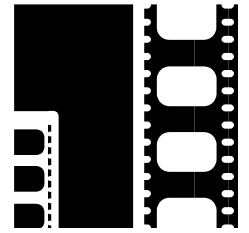
Lois Strom, lstrom@comcast.net,
217-546-5325, District 2
Bonnie Heidinger, heidinger@midwest.net, 618-
549-5002, District 1
Sharon Urban, surban@centurytel.net,
309-346-1774, District 3
Andrea (Andi) Danis,
danishouse@sbcglobal.net, 630-892-6366,
District 4
Shirley May Byrnes,
fantasy.reader@hotmail.com, 847-429-1693,
District 5

Please contact one of the members of the nominating committee if you are interested in being on the AAUW-IL Inc., State Board or state committee, or if you know someone from your branch that you feel might be interested.



Lois

YOU OUGHTA
BE
IN PICTURES
AGAIN!



The AAUW-IL, Inc. Board would like to again start compiling digital photographs so that we can create another slide show for our 2016 state convention.

Do you have some great photos
of branch activities?

Candid shots of your members in action?

Please send them to Heidi Koberstine at:
heidi.koberstine@sbcglobal.net no later
than **March 15, 2016**.

Guideline Reminders:

- We'd like candid shots of your members—not "lineups" (see example from Crystal Lake)
- Please make sure that your branch name and the name of the activity is on the photo.
- We won't use any names unless they are on a nametag in the photo.
- We might use this slide show or the photos at the convention, on the website, on Facebook, or in promotional literature.
- Please limit your submissions to a reasonable number—no more than 10 per branch. When you email them to Heidi, please make sure they are in the .jpg or .gif format. No more than 5 attachments per email, and put "convention pictures" in the subject line.



Public Policy

Olga Weidner & Jo-An Takamoto Sabonjian
Public Policy Co-Directors



The **public policy priority issue** for Illinois this year is the **Equal Rights Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution. Our focus for 2015-16 will be to implement a strategy to make ERA a reality in Illinois! “EQUALITY OF RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW SHALL NOT BE ABRIDGED BY THE UNITED STATES OR BY ANY STATE ON ACCOUNT OF SEX.”

We propose focusing on mobilizing civic engagement with the theme “ILLINOIS CITIES FOR ERA!” The purpose of “ILLINOIS CITIES FOR ERA” is to mobilize support across our State for the passage of ERA. Our goal will be to focus on generating support in cities across our state during the 2015-16 Legislative Session, identifying the people and organizations with whom to coalesce. The plan is to engage the public in cities, towns and communities to interact with their state representatives and state senators in their respective districts and urge them to vote for ERA. We need to make voters realize that they are instrumental in making ERA a reality. District Directors, Branch Public Policy Chairs and their committees will be key people to instigate action at each branch level. The vibrancy of AAUW members within our 43 branches will resonate to residents of our communities and have an impact on our elected state senators and representatives.

Advocacy Process for AAUW branches - a concerted effort to involve civil society to help bring this plan to fruition: JOINING “ILLINOIS CITIES FOR ERA”!

1. Call on the Mayor of your city/town and ask him/her to issue a proclamation declaring the city as one of “ILLINOIS CITIES FOR ERA”. This would be a great opportunity for a photo event of the mayor and AAUW branch president holding the proclamation, and for a press release to send to local media describing what “ILLINOIS CITIES FOR ERA” is all about, following it up with a letter to the editor or a guest column article detailed in #3 below.

2. Get the support of the Chamber of Commerce in each city.

3. Write a Guest Column and/or Letter to the Editor of your local paper (with assistance from Association for content):

- a. Points to drive home: ERA is not dead – three more states are needed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Explain that the time has come to pass the ERA and WHY ERA IS NEEDED. We want Illinois to act.
- b. Mention sponsors of ERA: in the House of Representatives, Lou LANG (16th District); in the Senate, Senator Heather A. STEANS (7th District). Search at www.ilga.gov/senate and at www.ilga.gov/house.
- c. Mobilize women and men in your communities to make a difference by asking their elected officials to support the ERA.
- d. Provide information on how to contact their state senator and state representative in their specific district.

Example for State Senator: Senator Dave Luechtefeld, sendavel@midwest.net
(58th District) Telephone: (217) 782-8135

Example for State Rep: Representative Terri Bryant staterepterribryant@gmail.com
(115th District) Telephone: (217) 782-0387

4. Work on building a coalition of ERA supporters within your city by contacting other groups

Examples:

- League of Women Voters
- Clubs: Rotary, Kiwani, Lyons, Sierra, plus others
- All local churches: Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, First Christian, Unitarian, Church Women United, Interfaith Center, plus others
- Business and Professional Women
- Illinois NOW
- Professional organizations and corporations
- Call on professional organizations to use their legislative resources
- Illinois Education Association – local officers
- Illinois State Bar Association – local officers
- American Medical Association – local officers



A big thank you to our AAUW-IL leaders for joining in this effort, based on the principle that the most effective advocacy is local advocacy.

Thirty enthusiastic members who live in AAUW-IL districts 4 & 5 gathered on August 22 for pizza -- and a great discussion about Public Policy. We had members from 16 local branches, as well as some national members in attendance. The meeting was led by Public Policy Co-Director, Jo-An Sabonjian, and our former lobbyist, Paula Purdue.



The need for improved communication and support between the branches, state and national association was brought to light. We are hopeful that with the assistance of our district directors, we will be able to disseminate information about events and requests for lobbying efforts in a more efficient way. We also discussed using national's Two-Minute Activist tool and we're exploring creating an online video to show how to sign up on the aauw.org website.

Although the Spring Legislative Session in Springfield was dominated by the budget (or lack of one), we discussed our support of SB1564 (Health Care Right of Conscience) and the recent change in administrative rules severely affecting access to funding for childcare, and efforts that can be made in those areas.

We always welcome ideas for legislation to support, or bills that we need to monitor or oppose. Do not hesitate to contact us: Jo-An (jtakamoto@gmail.com) and Olga (oweidner@siu.edu.)



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

TO:



Save the dates!

**Northern Fall Conference – Oct. 10
Southern Fall Conference– Oct. 24**

**AAUW-IL State Convention
April 29-30, 2016
Roosevelt University, Schaumburg Campus**
