

AAUW-IL will again have two Fall Conferences this year, so you have an opportunity to choose the time and location that best fits your schedule! Attending conference is a wonderful way to reunite with old friends, make new ones, meet your state officers, and recommit to the AAUW mission. Online registration is again an option, so mark your calendars and register today!

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Saturday, October 14
Lincoln Public Library
Carnegie Room North
326 S. 7th St., Springfield



NORTHERN CONFERENCE

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Saturday, October 21
Illinois Institute of Technology Rice Campus
201 E. Loop Rd
Wheaton



- Remarks by Sallie Miller, AAUW-IL Pres.
- Women Who Lead: Panel of Elected Women Officials
- School Funding Reform: Illinois SB1
- Our Branches: Mission-Based Programs

Come share your AAUW success stories and passions and hear from others:

- What's happened in the last nine months since the January 21st Women's March?
- Where are we today and where do we want the conversation to head?

(Registration Forms on the Next Page)

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Registration Method 1: Print out this page and complete the appropriate form below. Scan it and save a copy, attach it to an email, and send it to the conference organizer listed on the form. Then go to <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/district-conferences>, click on the PayPal button for your conference, and pay online.

Registration Method 2: Print out this page, fill out the appropriate conference form and mail it with a check made out to AAUW-IL to the appropriate conference organizer.

**REGISTRATION FOR SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
(October 14, 2017)**

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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Turkey + Classic Salad | <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Turkey + Caesar Salad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ham & Swiss + Classic Salad | <input type="checkbox"/> Ham & Swiss + Caesar Salad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mediterranean Veggie + Classic Salad | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 **Monday, October 2, OR** complete the registration form, scan it, and attach it to an e-mail to Carolyn. Then go to <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/district-conferences>, click on the PayPal button for your conference, and pay online.

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

**REGISTRATION FOR NORTHERN CONFERENCE
(October 21, 2017)**

Name _____ Branch _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Cost is \$20. A continental breakfast from Panera 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. OR** complete the registration form, scan it, and attach it to an e-mail to Danielle. Then go to <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/district-conferences>, click on the PayPal button for your conference, and pay online. Questions? daniellebyron@gmail.com or 630-520-3237.

Illinois Link

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Message from the President

Sallie Miller



Welcome to the 2017-2018 AAUW year. The AAUW-IL board had a lively summer board meeting on July 14 & 15 in Bloomington. We discussed how to make our fall conferences of value to AAUW members. The district directors have developed programs described in this newsletter that I think you will find exciting and interesting. The southern conference will be October 14 at the Lincoln Public Library in Springfield and the northern conference will be October 21 at the Illinois Institute of Technology-Rice Campus in Wheaton. Registration information for these conferences is included in this LINK.

Our AAUW-IL State Convention in Champaign held on May 5 & 6, 2017 received an overall positive rating - the top two segments most enjoyed were the keynote speaker and the networking. Comments on the breakout sessions, the hotel, the food, and the staff were favorable. Space and pacing were noted to be important, to allow time to view the displays. Half the registrants had paid with PayPal, which streamlines the process.

It was wonderful to have about 50 AAUW-IL members attend the 2017 AAUW National Convention on June 14-17 in Washington, D.C. Our AAUW-IL TRIO program paid the registration fee for 12 Illinois AAUW first time attendees for the National Convention. I felt inspired and empowered by the speakers, the AAUW leaders, and the lobby day visit to Capitol Hill. We had a meeting with Senator Tammy Duckworth and with Brad Middleton, the Education Policy Advisor to Senator Dick Durbin. Additionally, AAUW IL members had meetings with their Congressional Representatives. Marcia Wherry, co-Public Policy chair led the process to get the representative meetings scheduled.

AAUW National staff trained us prior to our lobby day visits. We introduced ourselves, gave a short "elevator" talk on AAUW, and then asked for support on two issues. We asked for support on Title IX specifically asking for increased funding for the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to continue to ensure that schools comply with Title IX. The second ask was to support and strengthen federal financial aid such as Pell Grants, Public Service Loan forgiveness, and Income-Driven Repayment. These programs are critical to the success of women in higher education and can help curb the student debt burden they experience.

A highlight of the Convention was meeting AAUW's new CEO, Kimberly Churches. Having worked at the Brookings Institution for many years, Kim brings excellent problem-solving and fundraising skills. The next National Convention will be held in 2020. I encourage you to visit the AAUW website <http://convention.aauw.org/2017/07/12/2017-convention-materials/> to learn about resources and materials included in the convention.

Our 2018 AAUW State Convention will be held on April 27 & 28, 2018, at Lisle Hyatt Regency and Benedictine University. I look forward to seeing many AAUW members at various events this year.

Sallie Miller
AAUW-IL President

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2017 AGENT OF CHANGE CAROL HEISLER



Crystal Lake members Linda Riggs, Marlene Boncosky, (Carol), Sandy Moser, and Meredith Reid Sarkees join Carol to celebrate her award.

Carol Heisler is the recipient of the 2017 AAUW-IL, Inc. Agent of Change Award! Carol epitomizes an active, involved, and dedicated AAUW member. She energetically promotes engagement with AAUW at the local, state, and national levels. She has inspired members to anticipate and adapt to change with action that strengthens the AAUW mission.

Carol joined the Crystal Lake Area Branch in 1993 and has served as president, public policy chair, and secretary. She initiated “Reel Life”, the branch film series that focuses on women, and led a branch partnership with the Crystal Lake Library. Four times a year, for the past two years, the ensuing “Reel Life for Real Women” has educated branch and community members about women and issues that are important to them. Carol consistently works to provide AAUW mission-based programs and research to her branch. She brings enthusiasm and creative ideas to any branch project she tackles. As a bank trust officer, she has also offered her professional expertise about tax law for the branch's non-profit status and fundraising events.

Carol has served on the State Board as a district director, director of international affairs, nominating committee chair, and membership co-vice president. She has just recently completed her term as president. Her focus as State Board President was ensuring that AAUW-IL is a vital, fiscally conscious, and enduring organization. With membership down and branches disbanding, Carol facilitated discussion with board members about investing some of the state's money in its branches. She was instrumental in designing the TRIO Stipend that has enabled numerous members to attend State and National Conventions. She initiated the Local Engagement Grant that provides funds for branch mission-based programs/events. She reinvigorated The Gender Equity Fund, formed in 1997, to continue the work of achieving equal opportunities for women and girls. As a result, a GEF Speaker's Bureau has presented AAUW's research to branches and communities across the state. To encourage branch boards to evaluate their “mission-driven” purpose, she helped streamline the branch recognition process, BEST AWARD, to encompass all programs. Her strong fiscal management skills (capping investment earnings at a carefully monitored percentage and encouraging donations for GEF programs) have contributed sound practice to the State Board's funding of branch grants and member stipends. Carol has been an enthusiastic advocate for AAUW's National events and priorities, including public policy initiatives and the National Student Conference. She has actively supported the National Convention, attending herself, and, via the TRIO Stipend, made it possible for others to attend.

Whether collaborating with other community organizations to promote her branch's programs/events, distributing PayDay candy bars to commuters to highlight Pay Equity Day, advocating for the first Jane Addams Day in Illinois, or making thirty teal scarves for AAUW attendees at the Women's March in Chicago, Carol has brought visibility to AAUW. She initiated the Local Engagement Grant and suggested continuing the work of the Gender Equity Fund, both opportunities for branches to provide mission-based programs in their own communities and bring AAUW's mission and research to a broader audience. The TRIO Stipend, also initiated by Carol, may well serve to inspire AAUW's future leaders who will make AAUW vital and visible in the years to come.

Carol is an outstanding AAUW member! Her vision, initiatives, inclusive leadership, and action have strengthened AAUW's mission and promoted positive change in society. As president, Carol and the State Board provided a blueprint for the success of AAUW-IL branches. She would be the first to report that the accomplishments made during her term were the result of the input, cooperative spirit, hard work, and action of “the greatest AAUW-IL board EVER”. Carol has a talent for making members feel valued and appreciated. She has inspired them to believe vision with action can change the world! With respect and admiration, AAUW-IL is very pleased to recognize Carol Heisler as the 2017 Agent of Change.

Congratulations, Carol!

History of the Agent of Change Award

The Agent of Change Award was instituted in 1984 by the Board of Directors of the Illinois State Division, now AAUW-IL, Inc. This prestigious award is presented annually to a branch member or AAUW member who has served as a catalyst to bring about positive societal change and visibility to AAUW. The five District Directors are charged with selecting the Awardee from nominations submitted by AAUW-IL branches.

All efforts that relate to AAUW's missions will be considered, with special emphasis placed on activities that relate to current AAUW priorities and initiatives. For example, individuals who have actively promoted change in the areas of education, equity, advocacy, philanthropy, and/or public policy, and have brought visibility to AAUW, should be among those considered as nominees for this prestigious award.

Eight outstanding members were nominated in 2017. (Please keep in mind branches may resubmit previously-nominated individuals in the future.) The directors of the five Illinois districts chose to honor Carol Heisler with the award, and wish to thank Meredith Reid Sarkees of the Crystal Lake Area Branch for nominating her. Carol was named the 2017 Agent of Change at the State Convention on May 6 in Champaign.

2018 AGENT OF CHANGE AWARD

The process for selecting our next recipient for this prestigious award will begin in January 2018. 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, 2018. **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.
- Individual members or branch boards may re-submit previously nominated individuals.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Schjelderup, AAUW-IL District 3 Director: cs_schj@yahoo.com or 309-799-5678 (H) or 309-231-1874 (C).

UPDATE ON GENDER EQUITY FUND



Carol Heisler
GEF Secretary

Thanks to everyone who supported the AAUW-IL Gender Equity Fund basket raffle at the AAUW-IL Convention in Champaign. The Gender Equity Fund is a 501c3 designated charity whose mission is to advance equity for women and girls.

Our speaker's bureau was highly successful last year with AAUW Branches and other groups realizing the opportunity to hear about AAUW research on Pay Equity and Women in Leadership (Barriers and Bias). We will provide the speakers at your event at no charge. Please contact Carol Heisler (carolheisler@gmail.com) or Andi Danis (danishouse@sbcglobal.net) to reserve your date. The schedule is filling up fast.

We have access to the movie, EQUAL MEANS EQUAL, an examination of the need for passage of the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment). The film runs 90 minutes and is very powerful especially for women's groups who have not recognized the need for passage. There is a modest transportation cost and deposit fee. Please contact Carol Heisler at carolheisler@gmail.com to learn more.

The Gender Equity Fund was organized 20 years ago by dedicated AAUW members but we cannot move forward without financial donations and the help of volunteer members. If you are interested in either, please contact Andi or Carol by email above. Our current directors are: Nann Blaine Hilyard (Convener), Mary Ann Dion (Treasurer), Carol Heisler (Secretary), Ruth Sweetser, Susan Wood, Andi Danis, Alice Huebner, Lisa Cherry, Erica Gonzales, and Sallie Miller

Your 2017-2018 AAUW-IL State Board





**Lisa Cherry,
AAUW-IL
Membership VP**

Membership Matters



In the July issue of *AAUW Illinois Connections* I asked Membership VPs from all over the state to join me in an interactive process with the goal of communication and information sharing to build and strengthen membership. Well, our first effort was a big one and the VPs did not disappoint. An online letter went out to about 700 national AAUW members who reside in Illinois, but are not currently branch members. The subject line in the letter was “AAUW - Are you ready to go local?”. As responses came back to me, I sent contact information to appropriate branches for follow up. Thanks so much, MVPs, for your prompt work to begin the branch recruiting process with these members who already believe in the mission of AAUW!

We know that there are three points to consider in the membership cycle: Recruitment, Engagement and Retention. Membership staff in our national office has seen some clear trends over the last few years. The most glaring trend is in turnover. Which group is showing the highest rate of turnover? Those who have only been members for one or two years are leaving the fastest. Only 23% are renewing and further review shows that, within that group, the highest turnover is after only one year. These individuals are not being engaged and their expectations are not being met. How can we not just meet, but exceed their expectations? Here are some retention tips:

- **ENCOURAGE NEW MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**

Interview new members and learn about their interests and their expectations of membership. Introduce them to members with similar interests and personally invite them to meetings and interest groups. Stay in contact.

- **DEMONSTRATE VALUE**

Develop a plan to encourage board and branch members to make new members feel welcome. Introduce them at meetings, highlight them in newsletters, use a different color of name tag and take time to get to them personally. Discover the balance between their personal and volunteer time. Respect their limits and make it work.

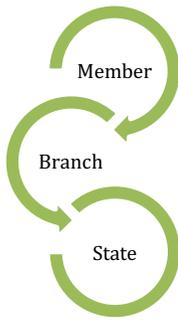
- **COMMUNICATE APPROPRIATELY**

Develop a membership survey (a sample can be found on the national website) and find out what's working and what is not. Seek suggestions and follow up.

- **HOLD A NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

Explain AAUW at the national, state and branch level. Present opportunities for engagement and follow up with each member on her interests.

I encourage every membership maven to take advantage of the wonderful resources found in the membership resources section of our national website. They are excellent.



TRIO Program



Members who have never attended a State or National Convention are eligible for a TRIO stipend. Since its inception, the TRIO program has been a great success! First time attendees enjoyed both the state and national conventions this year. Twelve members received stipends for the national convention and nine for the state convention. This program is a great way to energize and inform members—what better way to learn about AAUW than by attending a convention for the first time?

Recipients who attended the national convention were surveyed about their experiences, and they all mentioned that Lobby Day was a highlight, along with speakers Judy Woodruff and Justice Sonia Sotomayor. They enjoyed meeting other members from across the country and they all had an idea they were going to try in their own branch.

The next opportunity for a TRIO stipend will be at the next state convention April 27-28, 2018—details will be in the Spring LINK.

Local Engagement Grant (LEG-Up) Recipients

The state board awarded Local Engagement Grants (LEGs) to the following branches:

Crystal Lake Area Branch—for their project started two years ago, called Reel Life. They show movies at the Crystal Lake Public Library each quarter. These movies feature strong female leads or directors. They average 30 viewers at each showing.

Jane Addams Branch—the state's only online branch requested funds to set up GoToMeeting in order to offer programming to more people. They hope to invite members across the state to participate.

Your branch can be next on this list—the next deadline for applications is November 30, 2017. The simple application is on the website at <http://aauw-il.aauw.net/grants-for-branches/>. Questions? Contact Jennifer Urish at jenniferurish@gmail.com.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR STATE OFFICERS



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:

- *Director of Finance-Elect (one year as Finance-Elect followed by two years as Director)
- *Program Vice-President(s) (two-year term)
- *Director of AAUW Funds (two-year term)
- Director of Bylaws and Policy (two-year term)
- **Nominating Committee Chair (two-year term)

All elected positions will officially take office on July 1, 2018.

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

- District 4 **Andrea (Andi) Danis** (Chair) H: 630-892-6366 C: 630-606-6366 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! If you think someone may be a good candidate, we will be happy to make the contact! **Nominations are due to the committee by November 30, 2017!!** Thanks!

*State Board experience preferred, but not required
**State Board experience required



Jo-An

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



Marcia

AAUW continues to work with organizations, including the League of Women Voters, for a stronger coalition effort to address our concerns with the status of women's issues in 2017. Members are using lobbying efforts in person and by phone, social media, or writing, to make our voices heard at numerous events across the state, at district offices of officials, and at the Capitols. Major events to date in 2017 included:

- The Illinois Women Moving Forward lobby day on April 5 began with a training session in downtown Springfield, including highlights from women legislators on 6 select bills they sponsored. Then a march to the Capitol where we sought individual discussions on the select bills with our local legislators in their offices or in the Rotunda.
- The Illinois Women March on Springfield on April 25 was supported by about 114 groups and focused on a progressive agenda and responsible budget for all. Coalition forces rallied and listened to state officials and speakers from supporting organizations before marching around the Capitol Complex. More contacts were made with state legislators, followed by speeches in the Rotunda by women legislators and various gubernatorial candidates.
- AAUW's national convention featured a mass invasion of 800+ members for lobby day at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. on June 15. Staff conducted training, and 46 members from Illinois met with Members of Congress and/or their staff. We targeted two issues related to education and equity - continuing support and expansion of Title IX and the looming problem of women falling into deeper debt due to student loans. It was an exciting experience and our only regret was the failure to get a confirmed appointment with a few congressmen or their staff.

We recommend members contact state and federal officials to encourage passage of legislation pertaining to women's issues, and then for signatory approval, or a veto, or an override of a veto. Recent approval of a state budget demonstrated the role played by advocates increasing the pressure on legislators. If you do not receive alerts from the AAUW Action Network, please go to www.aauw.org and sign up to become a Two Minute Activist; you can easily contact a member of Congress to express your opinion on pending issues of healthcare, equal pay, student loan debt, and Title IX. National staff also assist by reviewing and sending alerts for Illinois legislation such as SB1 (funding for education) and SB1351 (to reduce problems with student loan payments). The campaign for ratification of ERA, an issue long overshadowed by delays with the state budget, is continuing as a coalition effort.

The AAUW *Outlook* magazine for Spring 2017 included information for all members to use in casting votes for the Board of Directors and business items such as proposed Public Policy Program changes, Resolutions, and AAUW Bylaws. Election results clarified or added wording changes/phrases of principles for action and biennial action priorities and also changed "Public Policy Program" to "Public Policy Principles." The priorities focus on advocacy and action to advance equity for women and girls by lobbying and participating in grassroots efforts to promote policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women. Voter participation (online, by paper ballot, or at the national convention) increased to 11.49% of all members nationwide and to 12.01% of Illinois members. We need more GOTV!



Deanie Brown
AAUW-IL C/U Director

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Warm Greetings and Happy “Autumn” – that’s in quotes because it’s still quite warm and I’m determined to cling to summer and to long periods of daylight! I am pleased and excited to serve your College and University Relations mission and goals again this year, and this year I aspire to create or rekindle partnerships – with you and your Branches, with potential new members from colleges and universities, and with institutions throughout the state.

We find that students and faculty members are quite interested in AAUW – they are interested in our programs and policy efforts and in our advocacy for women and girls. And they’re happy to attend our signature events! I hope to cultivate that interest in the many ways available. For example, even though your Branch may not be located near a college or university partner, students might be permanent residents in your town and interested in affiliating with AAUW, both nationally and in your Branch.



College students may also serve as **AAUW Campus Ambassadors** or apply for funding on their campus to present projects and promote action on women’s issues on their campus, including the fight against gender bias and discrimination in engineering, technology, science, and math.

AAUW NATIONAL STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

In addition, the AAUW National Study Advisory Council is a leadership program for 10 college women who serve as AAUW Ambassadors on their campuses. These students build relationships with local Branches, which is another exciting opportunity to connect you with students in your area. Once again, I look forward to working with your Branch Presidents to support and cultivate partnerships in service to you. In the meantime, here’s a photo of the National Student Advisory Council. With all best regards! Deanie





Mary Ann

AAUW Funds Mary Ann Dion, Director

For the year 2016, the contributions to funds with the highest totals were:

#9110 – AAUW Fund, which advances AAUW’s mission by sustaining all our programs and activities, including AAUW Advocacy, Outlook, NCCWSL, LAF, Start Smart, Work Smart, and Elect Her	\$49,711.92
#4402 – Charting the Course – The Charting the Course campaign raised an astounding \$1 million plus! This campaign has now ended.	\$46,105.73
#3999 – Legal Advocacy Fund -- General Support	\$27,294.52
#4282 – American Fellowship - Lois List (has the possibility of completion soon)	\$ 7,180.00
#4336 – Educational Opportunities Fund	\$ 4,677.00

Our branches have been extremely generous this year. Branches and members are encouraged to send future contributions to National no later than November 30th, if possible, in order to be applied to 2017. When the 2017 Annual Report of Funds arrives in February 2018, I will send an e-mail to each branch President and either the Funds Chair or Treasurer, indicating the totals of each branch’s contributions and those of individual branch members, asking for a reply as to whether the report agrees with the branch total. Most of the discrepancies seem to occur with checks sent in December. Also, If possible, please send a copy of the Contribution Report Form to me as well as to National with checks. Several branches have been sending copies of the CRF to me and it has been very helpful in resolving differences. I will do my very best to determine the cause of any differences that occur.



AAUW-IL Members at National Convention in D.C.!



Save the dates!

**Southern Fall Conference – Oct. 14
Northern Fall Conference – Oct. 21**

**AAUW-IL State Convention
April 27-28, 2018
Lisle Hyatt Regency & Benedictine University**

