



ILLINOIS LINK

American Association of University Women – Illinois, Inc.
Spring, 2014 -- Number 297

AAUW: Doing the Math

AAUW-IL, Inc. 90th State Convention

*Friday – Saturday May 2-3, 2014
Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL*

AAUW-IL, Inc. is excited to invite you to our State Convention to take place at Pheasant Run Resort (**see page 5**) in St. Charles, Illinois, on May 2 and 3. Our theme this year is “Doing the Math.” We will be discussing salaries, fundraising, and the three missing ERA-ratifying states, to mention a few pertinent numbers. The IL and MO AAUW state organizations won an Impact Grant at National Convention last summer to work on passing the Equal Rights Amendment. Our own Marti Sladek, a tireless proponent, will talk about what it will take to pass the Amendment. Before lunch on Saturday, President-Elect Carol Heisler will help us “Change the Toy Equation.” We’ll learn how to disrupt the pink aisle that’s set aside for girls’ toys with some non-traditional girls’ toys that encourage creative play.

Friday Activities:

\$tart \$mart: We will be kicking off the program on Friday afternoon at 1 pm with a \$tart \$mart Salary Negotiation workshop followed by a Facilitator Training Session. Branches that are interested in this program can audit the three-hour workshop, which is co-sponsored by Elgin Community College. After the workshop, there will be a training session for those interested in facilitating \$tart \$mart workshops at their colleges and university campuses. Please reach out to your College and University Partners to invite them to this workshop and training. As further enticement we have received a grant from the Gender Equity fund to help defray costs of the Facilitator Training. (*Read more on page 6.*)

Leisure Options: For members and guests who want to relax on Friday, there will be several options. For shopping, just two blocks west of Pheasant Run is Charlestowne Mall anchored by Von Maur. For golfers, we will be setting up foursomes for 9 holes for those who want to take advantage of Pheasant Run’s golf course. Of course you can also book 18 holes or your own group directly with the Pro Shop. There is also a spa in the hotel as well as three swimming pools and a very large fitness center.

Evening Activities: We will gather for dinner on Friday night. Afterwards, you can attend the ever-popular “Book Talk” by Nann Blaine Hilyard or attend the Fox Valley Repertory theater production of *Cheaper by the Dozen* on the premises. We will end the night with a dessert reception.

(See page 4 to read about Saturday Convention Highlights.)

IllinoisLink

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

Kelly Orban
128 S. Main St.
Medora, IL 62063
618-210-8541
kellyorban@aol.com

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

Director of Finance
Nann Blaine Hilyard
511 College Ave.
Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096
847-872-2688
nbhilyard@att.net

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 Spring News

By Andi Danis

Happy 2014, AAUW-IL! I can't bring myself to wish you a happy spring because I can't seem to find any signs of it yet; I'm sure it's coming...it must be somewhere under these 76 inches of snow up here... I *can* say Happy AAUW Spring, which means that convention is coming!



Last year we had a fabulous joint convention with our neighbor to the southwest, Missouri. We made many new AAUW friends and a partnership that is extending well beyond the actual convention. Perhaps in the future we will be working with other states in the same manner, but this year we look forward to getting together with our Illinois AAUW friends from across the state in St. Charles on May 2-3, 2014! Your State Board has been planning for months under the expert guidance of our Program Vice-President, Cindy Grau. She has lined up two days of great learning experiences, fun activities and opportunities to connect and share with others. You will find all the details and registration information in this issue. Be sure to take note of the deadlines, as you do not want to miss out on this great event!

On a sadder note, I must report that we have lost one of our past state presidents and treasured friends with the death of Lida Sigg. We received word several weeks ago that she was not doing well but would welcome cards. I barely got word out to branch presidents when we were further informed that she had passed away. She was an ardent AAUW supporter who, even after moving to Iowa to be with her daughter, continued to make the drive to our state conventions here in Illinois. Loryann Eis remembers her making that drive by herself at the tender young age of 90! A Research and Projects Grant in her name was completed but can still accept funding under Fund #4164. Cards and notes can be sent to her daughter, Martha Rasmussen, at: 409 - 180th Street NE, Solon, IA 52333. We were privileged to have known Lida and will always remember the joy she brought to AAUW-Illinois.

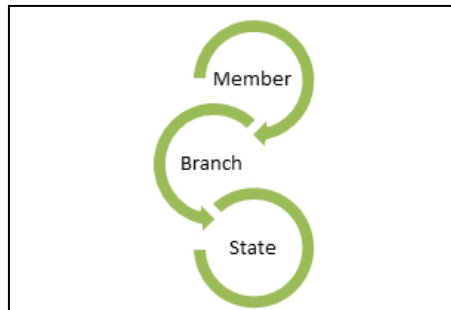
(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

At this year's convention, as always, we elect and install new officers. Last year we elected Carol Heisler as President-Elect. She will now be installed as President at this year's convention, which means.....it is time for me to go! I just want to say how grateful I am to have had this opportunity to serve as your President. By far, the best part of this position was meeting so many wonderful AAUW members across the state and seeing firsthand the hard work, but also great fun, happening in all of our branches. Thank you for always making me feel welcomed and appreciated. And a gigantic thank you to all of my board members; it was such a pleasure to work with all of you! AAUW-Illinois will be in great hands with Carol at the helm, so I know you will join me in welcoming her and her new board at convention!

Now—having said that—I am still at your beck and call for a little while yet, so please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns, comments, etc. I look forward to seeing you in St. Charles!

TRIO



Opportunity for First Time Convention Attendees

Have you attended the State AAUW Convention before? If not, the TRIO program is here to help with expenses. Under this program approximately 1/3 of the total cost of attending a state convention will be paid by the AAUW-IL. This means that registration fees will be waived for a first time State Convention attendee (one from each branch). This is a great opportunity to participate in all of the great events at Pheasant Run in St. Charles on May 2 and 3. Branches are encouraged to pick up another 1/3 of the member's costs by paying hotel or transportation charges. Members would assume the remaining third of the expenses. Details on obtaining the stipend are shown on the convention registration form.

Questions or concerns? Contact one of these Committee Members: Carol Heisler at carolheisler@gmail.com, Jennifer Urish at jenniferurish@gmail.com, Cindy Grau at cindy@equivoice.com, or Rachel Campbell at snowylark@gmail.com for more details and the submission form.

Saturday Convention Highlights:

Traveler's Self-Defense Class and AAUW Funds Fundraiser: The morning starts early with a fundraiser for the Lois List Endowment. Belle Staurowsky, lead instructor and founder of the Green Tara Project (www.greentaraproject.com), will be leading the Traveler's Self Defense Class from 7-8 am. Attendees will not only learn physical self-defense techniques, but predator identification and awareness in travel situations. The Green Tara Project is a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women and girls rescued from human trafficking by teaching them critical self-defense skills. To date, Belle has made four trips to India where she has personally trained over 500 girls and has established remote trainers to continue with self-defense classes. Classes for survivors here in the U.S. are being started next month. We are pleased to offer this class to AAUW Convention attendees for \$20. Net proceeds from the event will benefit AAUW Funds. Registration in advance can be done via the registration form on page 15 of this newsletter. There will be an additional opportunity to sign up at convention.

Convention Keynote – Mark Hopkins



Mark Hopkins is Chief Strategy Officer for AAUW National. He has responsibility for non-dues revenue generation and fundraising, strategic alliance and collaboration development, as well as strategic planning along with the other members of the executive staff of AAUW.

With over 25 years experience working for and with non-profit organizations, Mark has been an executive with American Lung Association, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and USO World Headquarters. As a consultant in his own practice he has worked with Target Corporation, Estee Lauder Companies, Nike, JP Morgan Chase & Company, World Medical Center and several others on innovation development, strategic alliance and business development projects, as well as strategic philanthropic efforts. Mark has served as a volunteer with several non-profit organizations and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the U. S. Capitol Historical Society.

Convention Breakout Sessions in the Afternoon:

GirlForward – Blair Brettschneider is only 24 years old and has founded this 501(c)(3) organization that is making a difference in the lives of young girls who are refugees living in the Chicago area. She won an AAUW Community Action Grant in 2012-2013 and has been recognized as a 2013 CNN Hero. Blair will talk about her young organization and the work she is doing to help teenage girls.

Investing in Young Women – Learn about AAUW's *National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)* from an enthusiastic supporter, Loryann Eis, and from former NCCWSL participants eager to share how this event made an impact on them. Kate Skegg will also give a preview of the first Tech Savvy camp to be hosted in Illinois.

Multiplying your Membership: (For branches of every size) State Co-Membership VP Rachel Campbell has gathered a panel of experts from Illinois branches to share their successful membership recruiting strategies. Bring your questions and share your successes.

Public Policy 101 - Bring your iPads, laptops or iPhones to this interactive session to learn how to access legislative and political information from the Internet. Learn about what constitutes AAUW issues, find out who contributes to legislators, learn how to find and read state legislation, and how to become an AAUW Two-Minute Activist. Paula Purdue from the Chicago, Inc. branch will lead this session.

Responsible Fundraising – With intense IRS oversight of non-profit organizations it is important that branches understand their tax status and how to keep it. Mark Hopkins, Chief Strategy Officer from AAUW National, will discuss how branches raise money, for what purposes, and what rules to follow in order to be compliant with IRS rules.



Where your group can **DO MORE!**



Enjoy Off-Broadway musicals, interactive comedies, educational shows for students, live music events, and memorable family shows with the area's largest nonprofit professional theater, in residence right here at Pheasant Run Resort! Fox Valley Rep (formerly Noble Fool Theatricals) brings many of Chicago's award-winning artists to St. Charles while inspiring you to laugh, reflect, and reconnect to moments in your own life in an engaging, intimate setting. Call the Box Office for tickets, 630.584.6342.



How many times have YOU laughed today? Since 1989, this sister room of the legendary Zanies in downtown Chicago, has been making the western suburbs laugh with the same great talent as the original comedy club. The club has featured the routines of nationally known comics like Craig Ferguson, Jon Lovitz, & Gilbert Gottfreid along with some of the country's hottest new talents. Join us for hilarious stand-up comedy in Chicago's premier club, located just off Bourbon Street. A two-item minimum purchase does apply. For more information on group discounts call the Box Office at 630.584.6342. Visit www.stcharles.zanies.com.



Imagine spending a day with only one person in mind - you! Spa Vargas Wellness at Pheasant Run Resort has massages, body treatments, skin care, and hair care. You will be able to enjoy a facial or aromatherapy, a manicure or a pedicure. Leave relaxed, renewed, rejuvenated. For more information call 630.307.1100.



The resort's 18-hole championship golf course has been awarded many honors. Golf Pros can arrange lessons, tee times, tournaments and glow golf. Now offering one of the finest golf and practice centers in the Midwest, with 50 grass-hitting stations, putting and short-game areas, state-of-the-art instructional facilities, and a new vending area. The Pro Shop is stocked with golf equipment and clothing that are great giveaways for awards ceremonies. To make your Tee Time or for more information call 630.584.4914.



Whether you are an exercise enthusiast, casual fan, or even if you are new to the fitness scene, our Fitness Center helps stimulate every moving muscle. The fitness center at Pheasant Run Resort offers a state-of-the-art fitness facility, featuring weight machines as well as the latest cardiovascular equipment from Life Fitness.



Pheasant Run Resort offers three separate indoor and outdoor swimming pools to enjoy during your stay. Our Indoor/Outdoor pool is one of the features of the Resort. The first of its kind, this year-round pool features an indoor section and an outdoor section of the pool with a glass partition you can swim under. Our two other pools include our indoor Atrium pool with hot tub, and our outdoor seasonal Courtyard pool that is open Memorial Day to Labor Day. The pools are open daily from 6 am to midnight.

AAUW-IL, Inc. State Convention - \$start \$mart

Friday, May 2, 2014

Workshop: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Facilitator Training: 4:15 pm - 5:45 pm

Pheasant Run Conference Center, St Charles, I

Registration available soon on the AAUW-IL, Inc. State Convention form (See Page)

“Over the course of her working life, a woman will get paid roughly \$1 million less than a man - simply because she is a woman.”

AAUW-IL, Inc. is offering the **\$start \$mart Workshop and Facilitator Training** at the annual State Convention on Friday, May 2, 2014.

This \$start \$mart Workshop & Facilitator Training is a partnership between AAUW-IL, Inc. and Elgin Community College:

- ♦ to train AAUW members and College and University Partners as Facilitators of future \$start \$mart Workshops;
- ♦ to give college women the confidence and skills they need to obtain fair compensation in the workplace.

The \$start \$mart Salary Negotiation Workshop equips a woman at the beginning of her career to play a more powerful role in the compensation negotiating process with a prospective employer by:

- ♦ *providing resources for benchmarking current local salary and benefits ranges*
- ♦ *offering salary and benefits negotiation skill building and role play exercises*
- ♦ *teaching her how to prepare a personal budget to determine salary needs*
- ♦ *highlighting the personal and cumulative consequences of the gender wage gap.*

The Facilitator Trainees attend the three hour \$start \$mart Workshop to observe the process. After the Workshop they will receive an additional hour and a half Facilitator Training component.

There is no fee for the \$start \$mart Workshop. The Facilitator Training cost is \$100, payable at the training; facilitators will receive a \$50 refund upon facilitating their first Workshop.

A \$25 scholarships will be awarded to the first 25 Facilitator Training applicants by the Gender Equity Fund.

\$start \$mart is a collaboration of AAUW, the non-profit WAGE Project, a national organization dedicated to eliminating the gender wage gap through wage negotiation workshops targeted to senior college women, and, of course, the interested local college/university. The AAUW Board voted to consider this new community project in November of 2012.

Meet the State Board Slate

Judy Jolly, Nominating Committee Chair

Members of the State Nominating committee for the past year were Penny Parish from District 1, Lois Strom from District 2, Sharon Urban from District 3, Alice Smith from District 4, and Judy Jolly from District 5. Thank you to all on the committee and others who suggested possible candidates. We are very proud to present the following slate of officers for election at the convention:

Cindy Grau, Program Vice President—Elmhurst Branch (District 4) and Northwest Suburban Branch (5)



Cindy is completing her first two-year term as AAUW-IL, Inc. Program VP. She co-planned the joint convention in St. Louis last year with her counterpart in MO and planned this year's convention in St. Charles. She is also currently serving as the President of the Northwest Suburban Branch and is an active member of the Elmhurst Branch. Cindy also served as AAUW-IL, Inc. Secretary for one year. Cindy, her husband, and two teenage sons live in Park Ridge. She is active in her church and various other volunteer positions, including woodland restoration at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. She also enjoys reading, yoga and travel.

Jennifer Urish, Finance Director-Elect—Belleville Branch (District 1)



Jennifer Urish lives with her husband and son in St. Louis. She has previously served on the AAUW-IL, Inc. State Board as Secretary and as Co-Membership Vice President. For the last two years, Jennifer has been serving on the Board as District 1 Director. She belongs to the Belleville Branch. In her spare time, Jennifer volunteers at her son's school and is a Master Gardener.

Susan Wood, AAUW Funds Director—Springfield Branch (District 2)



Susan joined the AAUW Springfield Branch in January 1995 and has been on the branch board continuously since July of that year. She has served as Parliamentarian, Secretary, Public Policy chair, Educational Foundation chair, 8 years as Legal Advocacy Fund chair, and 4 years as President. She is currently Membership Co-Vice President, Expanding Your Horizons Conference co-chair, and registrar for the Afternoon Tea fundraiser. She was also editor of the AAUW-IL Link newsletter for 2 years. Susan received her Bachelors in English Literature from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and worked for the Illinois Department of Public Aid/Human Services for 14 years as a caseworker and 20 years as a policy writer before retiring. She enjoys reading, sewing, exploring technology, and spending time with her two daughters and granddaughter,

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Lois Strom, Nominating Committee Chair—Springfield (District 2)



Shortly after moving to Springfield in 1970, Lois joined the AAUW Springfield Branch and has been an active member throughout her tenure, serving as President, Treasurer, EF Chair, College and University Chair, Study Group Chair, and Chair of the Branch's fundraising events through the years. She is a past President of AAUW-IL, Inc. and served on the State Board as District 2 Director, Program Vice President and EF Chair (now called Director of AAUW Funds). Lois says that in every position she has held, she has worked with outstanding women and looks forward to serving as Nominating Chair of AAUW-IL, Inc. In 2009 Lois retired as administrator of the Surgery Department at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Prior to her Masters in Health Services Administration from UIS, she taught at Broadwell Grade School and Mt. Pulaski Grade School. Upon moving to Springfield, she was a teacher for homebound

students and a substitute teacher before joining SIU SM. Besides her MA in HSA, Lois has a BS in Education from Illinois State University. In addition to AAUW, Lois has been active in many civic and not-for-profit organizations in Springfield including the Prairie Art Alliance, P.E.O., SPARC, Junior League, Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Springfield, and Denim and Diamonds (fundraiser for the Simmons Cancer Institute of SIU SM.) Lois and her husband, Bruce, have two daughters (in Wisconsin and Florida) and three grandchildren.

Bylaws Amendments

Kathy Brenniman, State Director Bylaws & Policy

Once again all AAUW state organizations and branches are required to make the mandatory changes to their bylaws to bring them into conformity with the changes made in the National bylaws in 2013. On February 21st, President Andi Danis forwarded an email from me to all Illinois branch presidents directing that the message be forwarded to the branch member responsible for keeping the bylaws current. The email includes attachments and directions for making the required changes to the section(s) of branch bylaws dealing with membership and dues.

An electronic copy of all amended branch bylaws must be sent to connect@aauw.org **no later than May 14, 2014**. Branches no longer have to send their bylaws to the Governance Committee for approval. However, if you would like me to review your amended bylaws prior to your sending them to D.C., I will be happy to do that, but I will need time to do so. I would appreciate getting your amended bylaws no later than April 15, 2014, so that I can review them in a timely manner.

AAUW Value Promise

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





Membership Matters

Rachel Campbell and Kelly Orban
Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Rachel writes: Membership retention is one of the cornerstones of a strong, active AAUW branch. Each year when membership chairs begin the process of collecting dues, some members reevaluate their AAUW membership: should they renew or should they resign? Let's consider some ways to make renewing an easy decision.

Membership retention begins the day new members join. By welcoming a new member to a branch meeting you send a message, "We are so happy you became a part of AAUW; we need you and your ideas."

Invite each new member to participate in a branch project or activity. Better yet---what new activity or project would the new member like to suggest? Learn about the members; find out what they are interested in, and introduce them to what AAUW is and does to support our mission.

When an invitation to participate in an activity is issued, be sure to accompany a new member to that activity. Some people have a difficult time joining in for the first time if they are alone. They may be concerned that there will be no one they know. They may feel they have nothing to offer.

Stay in contact with members. If you notice that a member has not been attending meetings, call her. Find out if she needs transportation. Perhaps she has been ill and a card or other type of contact would be appreciated.

If a new member makes a suggestion about an activity, welcome it and give it careful consideration. Be sure that person believes that what he or she is offering is a worthwhile possibility. The same is true of an offer to volunteer to take part in an activity—follow through. Be sure members understand that their efforts are needed and appreciated.

It is important for all AAUW members to remember that every branch member—new or experienced—is a part of the membership committee. Each one of us is a part of the effort to retain our members. If we all take that responsibility, making the decision to renew or resign is easy. There is no question. We renew!

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

Kelly Orban
kellyorban@aol.com
618-210-8541



Impact Grants

Two impact grants from the national office are helping AAUW-IL focus on four public policy issues in 2013-2014: Social Security, STEM, the ERA, and Pay Equity. National staff members are using conference calls to maintain contacts with states that are working on the same or similar issues. They are also researching and preparing numerous resource materials for AAUW members to use in planning state and branch-level activities. AAUW members are asked to be involved in educating our members and the public on the issues described below. Members are urged to contact their state and federal representatives at their district offices to seek their support on bills that will promote a better education for girls and improve equity for women. The AAUW website now includes two new forms for branch leaders to report plans, participation and the success of activities for impact grant issues.

Issue 1 - Social Security - The Social Security program should be strengthened to help provide economic security for current and future retirees. If program updates are not put into place, women will be particularly threatened because they live longer, usually are paid less, often spend less time in the workforce due to family-related interruptions, and have less in savings. One way to ensure solvency of the program is to raise the cap on earnings that are taxed for Social Security. To help educate members and the public, branches are developing local plans involving groups with similar goals. Activities include having an issue forum with speakers from Social Security or AARP, contacting Members of Congress to ask for their support of the program, writing letters to the editor or op-ed columns, and planning a tele-town hall conference call with elected officials.

Issue 2 - STEM - For more than two decades, AAUW has planned and conducted sessions that include hands-on activities for girls to learn more about careers in the STEM fields. Branches have been asked to involve more community resources, including colleges and coalition groups, in an expansion of STEM activities. An example of informing the public of action needed or being taken is the Guest Column written in November 2013 by Aurora Branch member Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia. The column explained the importance of STEM education for meeting future workforce needs and the partnership that will be implemented next year in a STEM Partnership School on the campus of Aurora University.

Issue 3 – The Equal Rights Amendment - Equal rights are included in the 1970 Illinois Constitution but our state legislature has not yet passed the ERA for the U.S. Constitution. In 2013 Rep. Lou Lang again filed a House Joint Resolution for ratification of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment for the Constitution and HJRCA0007 remains in the Rules Committee. Other activities include: Illinois and Missouri public policy leaders meeting to discuss and coordinate strategies for both state legislatures to pass ERA, Marti Sladek of the Downers Grove Branch continuing to develop contacts with coalition groups, and branches scheduling in-district office visits with targeted state representatives to determine their position in supporting the long-awaited amendment.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Issue 4 - Pay Equity - The gender pay gap needs to close, and discrimination against women should end. In 2012 the national median earnings for women was 77 percent of men's average earnings. In Illinois the statewide gap for full-time employed women is slightly less with women's average earnings coming in at 79 percent. Research indicates significant differences in the pay gap exist in Illinois when statistics are reviewed according to congressional districts. For example, women's earnings in District 4 are the lowest average amount, but rank as 94 percent of men's earnings. Women's earnings in District 6 are at the highest average amount, but rank as only 66 percent of what men earn. Outside the Metro area, women's average earnings are much lower than overall earnings in the Metro area; in non-Metro districts, women's average earnings range from 67 percent to 72 percent of men's earnings.

To publicize April 8, Equal Pay Day, Chicago members are involved in planning an Equal Pay Rally from noon - 1:00 on the Daley Plaza in the Loop. The Illinois House is expected to pass HR 0749, sponsored by Rep. Sandra Pihos and Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie, to allow a state proclamation for Equal Pay Day. In the Senate, Senator Toi Hutchinson has sponsored SR0855. All branches are encouraged to request a similar proclamation from their mayors or city councils. Miniature PayDay candy bars are a great example for making the point that women's pay is too often less than that of men.

Get Out the Vote (GOTV)

The 2011-2012 Impact Grant focused on Get Out The Vote, with an emphasis on registering new voters and increasing voter turnout, especially among the millennial generation. Prior to the March 18 primary election, a limited number of forums are scheduled and may be sponsored or co-sponsored by groups such as the League of Women Voters. All members are reminded to vote, whether early or on Election Day. Beginning March 20, registrars may obtain registration materials from the county Election Offices and begin registering prospective voters for the General Election on November 4, 2014.

Online Resources

All members are encouraged to visit www.aauw.org and to use the information found by clicking on the "Issues" or "What We Do" or "Resources" links. Information about the status of state legislation in Illinois can be viewed by using www.il.gov and then clicking on "Legislative Branch" or "Bill or Resolution Search." AAUW-IL, Inc. will soon begin using Salsa, the same e-advocacy platform that aauw.org started using in August. With this tool AAUW-IL will be able to send state-specific and local Two-Minute Activist alerts to members. It will also be useful for creating event pages, especially when two or more branches are working on joint events.



AAUW Legislative Session Report
Jenni Purdue, Legislative and Political Consultant

The Spring legislative session started late this year in the last week of January, and although we have a shortened calendar this year, things are hopping in Springfield. There have already been a number of bills of interest that have been introduced, as well as some interesting posturing around the state budget.

The state budget is consuming most legislative conversations due to the temporary income tax increase expiring January 1, 2015. The expiration of the income tax increase will leave the state anywhere from 1.9-3 billion dollars in the hole for the FY15 budget (July 1, 2014 - June 30th, 2015). There seems to be some political will to pass either an extension of the income tax, make the 5% income tax permanent, or pass a "fair tax" structure, but that political will seems to be only for a January "lame duck" session vote - which will already be 6 months into the fiscal year. Before a lame duck session can take this vote, the General Assembly will have to pass a budget passed on the revenues that exist as of May 31, 2014 - which means they will have to cut 1.9-3 billion dollars of funding for programs. After the General Assembly funds the mandated budget lines, consent decrees, pensions, and programs with federal matches, they will have to cut funding for all the other programs, which will likely decimate those non-mandated programs. This dire budget projection is really dominating the conversation this year.

In addition to the doomsday budget scenario we are facing, there are a few substantive bills that AAUW is following:

Revenge Porn: HB4320 - Drury: This is a bill that creates a criminal offense for posting "revenge porn". Studies show that one in ten ex-partners has threatened to post revealing photos of a former lover online, and the majority of the victims are women. Full names, places of employment, phone numbers, and social media profiles are often posted alongside the explicit photos, and many victims have had to change phone numbers, change jobs, and relocate at great personal expense. Still, no state law explicitly prohibits revenge pornography in Illinois. HB4320 aims to put in place a law that would prohibit this act. **AAUW Supports.**

Bullying: There are a number of bills that concern bullying that we are monitoring. Some of the bills that have been filed have a different take on laws previously passed, so we are working with other advocates and the bill's sponsors to make sure that we do not roll back any progress made on the issue of school bullying. Instead, we want to make sure we are making schools safer for all students.

Access to Abortion: HB 5462 & HB 5463 - Morrison: These two bills are designed to drastically restrict access to abortion. While they are similar to bills introduced in recent years, these are much more extreme versions that include criminal penalties and are truly focused on stopping a woman's access to abortion. These kinds of bills have been used to close down services in other states. In addition, courts have already acted on many of the bills' provisions in previous Illinois laws by either prohibiting them from being enforced or modifying them through consent decrees. **AAUW Opposes.**

Equal Rights Amendment: HCA7 - Lang: This is the bill that would put Illinois on the list of states who have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. We are working with Rep. Lang to get a roll call in the House of Representatives and look forward to building support and getting it passed in IL!!

International Affairs Carol A. Heisler, Director



Be the Mosquito!

Has anyone noticed that in the world of movies released in 2013, many are based on true stories? *AMERICAN HUSTLE*, *DALLAS BUYERS CLUB*, *PHILOMENA*, *12 YEARS A SLAVE*, *THE WOLF OF WALL STREET*, *CAPTAIN PHILLIPS*, *SAVING MR. BANKS*, *LONE SURVIVOR*, and according to imdb.com 31 others had their beginnings in real events. All are admittedly dramatized to make a more interesting movie. I have not seen all of these films, but these are mostly American stories.

Many of us who are interested in international affairs appreciate actual historical accounts. Many read biographies, detailed histories and opinion pieces by foreign authors. Some of us, though, like the good yarn of a dramatic novel. I don't believe that cultural stories need be accurate historical accounts to be worthwhile. Novels and movies can provide a mirror of another society. When the cultural norms are frightening and/or dangerous to women, we can ponder how and why these customs became accepted and even endorsed by foreign governments and what might be done to transform the lives of women and children.

AAUW members who belong to film or book clubs enjoy international films or books about another country. AAUW's Adelante! book list usually contains a few selections that are related to different nations. In the past two years, the list contained these true accounts: *THIS CHILD WILL BE GREAT* by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, *BAGHDAD BURNING: GIRL BLOG FROM IRAQ* by Riverbend and these fictional stories: *THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS* by Isabel Wilkerson, *A THOUSAND SPENDID SUNS* by Khaled Hosseini, and *IN THE SHADOW OF THE BANYAN* by Vaddey Ratner. Jan Lisa Huttner, an AAUW Agent of Change Award Winner and movie reviewer, has provided me with a list of foreign films released after 2010—most of which are available at Netflix. I have the electronic list (and Jan's short reviews) should you like it forwarded to you. Just contact me at carolheisler@gmail.com.

I'm hoping that by watching and reading, we will become more aware of other's circumstances and will raise our voices for fairness in unfair situations. Imagine if all of US as members made this effort and expressed our concerns to our lawmakers on a given topic.

This brings me to the core of my message for you today. As much as we would like, our members will probably not be working in the field internationally or even petitioning a foreign government to change policy. Probably the most we can do is to become more educated on world affairs and culture. By our understanding we can lobby our own government, non-profits, humanitarian agencies and others to improve the chances for our sisters so that they have a fair chance. I am reminded of a favorite quote from the Dalai Lama, "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito." Be the mosquito!

2014 AAUW IL, Inc. State Convention

Friday-Sunday May 2-3, 2014

Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL

AAUW: Doing the Math

FRIDAY, May 2nd

Friday afternoon	Golf Outing –Play 9 holes with a group or make your own tee-time for 9 or 18 holes
1:00-4:00 pm	Start Smart Workshop
4:15-5:45 pm	Start Smart Facilitator Training - (must also attend the workshop)
3:00-5:30 pm	State Board Meeting
12:00-9:00 pm	Registration
6:00-7:00 pm	Dinner
8:00-9:00 pm	Book Talk with Nann Blaine Hilyard
	-OR-
8:00-10:00 pm	“Cheaper by the Dozen” – Live Theater Pheasant Run
9:00-11:00 pm	President’s Reception

SATURDAY, May 3rd

6:45-9:00 am	Registration
7:00-8:00 am	Traveler’s Self Defense – AAUW Funds Fundraiser
8:00-8:50 am	Breakfast Buffet
8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Sales and Display Room Open
9:00 am	Opening Session - Andrea Danis, IL State President
9:15-10:15 am	Forward in '15 – Mark Hopkins, Chief Strategy Officer AAUW
10:15-10:35 am	Awards and Recognitions
10:35-10:45 am	Break
10:45-11:00 am	Business Session
11:00-11:30 am	Equal Rights Amendment - Marti Sladek, Public Policy Chair, Downers Grove Area Branch
11:40-12:00 pm	Changing the Toy Equation - Carol Heisler, AAUW-IL, Inc. President-Elect
12:15 - 1:30 pm	Luncheon
	Agent of Change Award
1:45-2:30 pm	Breakout Sessions (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GirlForward• Investing in Young Women• Public Policy 101• Responsible Fundraising
2:30-2:45 pm	Break
2:45-3:30 pm	Breakout Sessions (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GirlForward• Investing in Young Women• Multiplying your Membership• Responsible Fundraising
3:40-4:00 pm	Installation of new Board of Directors
	Wrap Up

**PLEASE WRITE ON THE BACK OF THE REGISTRATION FORM
WHICH TWO BREAKOUT SESSIONS YOU THINK YOU WILL BE ATTENDING.**

Deadline for Hotel Reservations is April 9, 2014

(See link from AAUW-IL, Inc. website at <http://aauw-il.aauw.net/>)

REGISTRATION FORM
AAUW Illinois State Convention 2014
May 2 & 3 • Pheasant Run, St. Charles, IL

AAUW: Doing the Math

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, April 14, 2014

Questions? Contact Cindy Grau, Program VP, at 847-384-8136 or cindy@equivoice.com

Register me for:

- ☐ Start \$mart Workshop on Friday. Circle one or both: Observer/ Facilitator Training*
- ☐ Golfing on Friday morning / afternoon Names of golfer(s) _____
- ☐ Friday Dinner - 6 pm
- ☐ "Cheaper by the Dozen" Friday night - 8pm \$27 (Group rate - 20 people needed)
- ☐ Traveler's Self Defense Class : AAUW Funds Fundraiser - 7am Saturday \$20
- ☐ Saturday Convention from 8am to 4pm including breakfast and luncheon

Name _____

Address _____
Street Address City State Zip

Telephone _____ Email _____

Branch _____ Position _____

Convention Fees and Extras

Registration for Sat. Convention (\$65) \$ _____

TRIO Stipend** (\$0) \$ _____

Late fee after April 14 (\$10) \$ _____

EXTRAS:

Fri. Dinner & Dessert Reception (\$37) \$ _____

Golf 9 holes & cart # players _____ x\$25 \$ _____

Cheaper by the Dozen # tickets _____ x\$27 \$ _____

Traveler's Self Defense (\$20) \$ _____
(can register at event)

Total Due \$ _____

Past State President (-\$14) \$ _____

** Members seeking a TRIO stipend certify that they are attending the state convention for the first time and that their branch endorses their attendance.

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Branch Member ☐ National Member
- ☐ State Board Member ☐ College / University Rep
- ☐ Student Affiliate ☐ Past State President
- ☐ First-time Attendee ☐ National Committee Member/Chair
- ☐ Guest ☐ Other _____

SPECIAL NEEDS:

☐ I need a table for AAUW Funds fundraising

☐ I have the following special food needs: _____

☐ I am interested in finding a roommate _____

Room reservations at Pheasant Run Resort

Rooms guaranteed until April 9

Call toll-free: 877-415-5439

or go to: aauw-il.aauw.net/ for link to hotel registration.

Room rates \$128.95 per night plus taxes of 11%

for one king or two double beds.

Make check payable to: AAUW-IL, Inc.

Mail registration form and payment to:

Lori Switzer
2746 W. Morse Ave.
Chicago, IL 60645

Phone: 773-465-1148 **Email:** switzer99@att.net

*Facilitator Training will require payment at time of training. See Start \$mart article for details.

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

TO:



Save the dates!
AAUW: Doing the Math
AAUW-IL State Convention
May 2-3, 2014
Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles