



ILLINOIS LINK

**American Association of University Women – Illinois, Inc.
Fall, 2014 -- Number 298**

Get Excited About AAUW – Come to Fall Conference!

AAUW-IL, Inc., will have two Fall Conferences in 2014. Choose the one that fits your calendar. Come learn from state officers and guest speakers! Renew your enthusiasm for our wonderful organization! Branch officers, members, and guests are welcome!

NORTHERN CONFERENCE

9:00am - noon

Saturday, October 25

Oakton Community College (Entrance 37, Room 1610)
1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines 60016



SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

10:30am - 1:30pm

Saturday, November 8

Lincoln Public Library (Carnegie Room North)
326 S. 7th Street, Springfield 62701



TOPICS

- ~The ERA & Public Policy in Illinois
- ~\$tart \$mart: Earn More from the Beginning
- ~Marketing Your Branch
- ~Fundraising Directives & the IRS
and more!

(Registration Forms on Page 2)

REGISTRATION FOR NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Name _____ Branch _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Cost is \$20. A hot breakfast buffet is included. Send check payable to *AAUW-IL* to Erika Nicketakakis, 4378 W. Lawn Avenue, Gurnee, 60031, to arrive no later than **October 18**. Questions? Daffodil39@aol.com or 847-623-2342.



Erika

REGISTRATION FOR SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

Name _____ Branch _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Cost is \$5. A continental breakfast is included. Send check payable to *AAUW-IL* to Carol Kerins, 3009 Arlington Drive, Springfield, 62704, to arrive no later than **October 25**. Questions? C.kerins@comcast.net or 217-787-4440.



Carol

Illinois Link

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Message from the President

By Carol Heisler



Welcome to the 2014-2015 year! Your terrific state board met this summer and began planning this year's meetings and events! We agreed that our last state convention at Pheasant Run was well attended with timely programs and lively discussions. All of us learned a lot, met old friends and re-energized! AAUW lifelong learning continues and we'll have more information and initiatives to share at the Fall Conferences. The Northern Conference will meet October 25th at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines and the Southern Conference will meet on November 8 at the Lincoln Library in Springfield. Registration information is on the previous page of this newsletter.

We heard your comments about the award/recognition structure and as a result there will be a more streamlined approach this year. **AAUW Funds Awards** and the **Agent of Change Award** will remain the same but the **BEST Award** will cover other important aspects of AAUW Branch successes. The survey on the following two pages will explain the necessary criteria for a branch to receive the BEST Award.

Under the **TRIO** Stipend Program, first-time attendees can receive a free registration to the State Convention in Bloomington on May 1 and 2. Remember that only one first timer per branch is allowed and requires your branch's approval.

TRIO also encourages attendance at the National Convention. AAUW-IL, Inc. will pay the early bird registration amount as a stipend. Once again, there can only be one first timer per branch, with branch approval. This is a terrific offer as registration is usually about \$400 (as I write this we do not know the exact amount yet). We're confident we'll encourage first-timers to make the trip to San Diego on June 18-21.

We hope that the branches will be able to financially assist dedicated members by providing meals, transportation, or lodging costs, as the registration is typically about 1/3 of the total cost. Former AAUW-IL President Andi Danis is chairing this effort, and has provided the information you'll find on pages 10 and 11.

As we begin, I am reminded of a workshop that a friend of mine facilitates. It's called, "Change is Good, You go First". That's easy to recommend, but difficult to execute. Nevertheless, I urge your branch to try something new. It may not work, it might be moderately successful or it might be a roaring success. How will you know without trying? I paraphrase one of our new board members who commented that through her 37 years in AAUW, she always felt that being in a branch allowed her to try out her leadership skills. If she failed, her fellow branch members were supportive, encouraging and forgiving. I have seen how leadership skills are developed when older members inspire and mentor newer members and encourage new ideas. I know I am still learning everyday—just dealing with the fast moving technology is challenging enough.

Our website <http://aauw-il.aauw.net> is great for finding information on events, contacts and policies. And check out the calendar on the site, too.

Let's have a great year together!

Carol A. Heisler
Carolheisler@gmail.com, 815-455-1473 (h) or 815-814-3180 (cell)

BEST Award Determination
(Branch Excellence State Twenty)
For the period April 30, 2014 to March 1, 2015
DUE: March 15, 2015

Name of Branch _____ **District #** _____

Contact _____

Email _____ **Phone** _____

Has your branch:

1. Had a Public Policy Program during the year as defined in the Public Policy Brochure? ☐Yes ☐No
Name and Date of Program _____
2. Sponsored or co-sponsored a GOTV campaign or candidates forum this year? ☐Yes ☐No
Name and Date of Program _____
3. Sponsored or co-sponsored a STEM conference? ☐Yes ☐No
Name and Date of Program _____
4. Collaborated with another Agency, Non-Profit, College/University or Government entity to have a program or educational activity during the year? ☐Yes ☐No
Name and Date of Program _____
5. Had an International Affairs Program this year? ☐Yes ☐No
Name and Date of Program _____
6. Had an AAUW Fellow or LAF plaintiff speak to your group? ☐Yes ☐No
Program date _____
7. Had a fundraiser for AAUW Funds this year? ☐Yes ☐No
Name and Date of Fundraiser _____
8. Sent a Branch member to the 2014 State Convention? ☐Yes ☐No
How many (not including Trio recipients) _____
9. Sent a member to the 2014 Nat'l. Convention under the TRIO Program? ☐Yes ☐No
Name of Member _____
10. Sent a Branch member to the Fall Conference in your district? ☐Yes ☐No
How many? _____
11. Produced a Branch newsletter? ☐Yes ☐No
Publication Name _____
12. Met 4 or more times between 4/30/14 to 3/1/15. ☐Yes ☐No

13. Had a member serving on the State Board or Committee? ☐Yes ☐No
Name of Member _____
14. Had a member serving in a National office or Committee? ☐Yes ☐No
Name of Member _____
15. Created or maintained a Branch website and/or Facebook page? ☐Yes ☐No
Name or web address _____
16. Encouraged diversity in membership by seeking women of different cultures, races and abilities? ☐Yes ☐No
17. Sent a picture of a Branch event to the State Board to be used at the State Convention? ☐Yes ☐No
When? _____
18. Publicized AAUW's Legacy Circle? ☐Yes ☐No
Where _____
19. Had a membership event specifically to invite potential members? ☐Yes ☐No
When _____
20. Distributed a copy or copies of AAUW research to the community, such as to libraries or schools, within the past year? ☐Yes ☐No
When and Where _____

Extra Points* Membership numbers will be determined from AAUW National's reports as of March 1 and the increase or decrease will be added to or subtracted from application totals. Increases or decreases in branch membership numbers will be added or subtracted from total scores and will significantly affect determination of branch award level.**

Which Branch member best represents the qualities of your Branch? _____
How? _____

Extras

In the space below, tell us about your branch's best practice, obstacles overcome in the past year or your best shining moment. This is your opportunity to boast! (Please keep this to three or four lines! (No addendums!)) Thanks.

Please tell us if your branch is celebrating an anniversary this year? _____

EMAIL TO: Kellyorban@aol.com

Or

MAIL TO: Rachel Campbell, 1198 Blackhawk Drive, Elgin IL 60120



Agent Of Change



Nancy Dietrich was the 2014 recipient of the AAUW-IL, Inc. Agent of Change Award.

Dietrich is a 15-year member of the Champaign-Urbana Branch. She has served as president, newsletter editor, community outreach chair, Adelante book group facilitator, and currently is membership vice president and facilitator of Drinks & Dialogue, a branch interest group that she was instrumental in starting. Drinks & Dialogue meets monthly to discuss an article or current event of relevance to women.

Under Dietrich's leadership, the Champaign-Urbana Branch worked with the University of Illinois YWCA to sponsor the Race Against Racism and also partnered with the University YMCA in bringing AAUW's Ruth Sweetser to the U of I campus to present "Few Women in STEM: Why, and What to Do." Co-sponsoring these events brought visibility to AAUW and helped promote AAUW's mission.

Dietrich also arranged a 2013 Equal Pay Day event to which the public was invited, and AAUW's research on the pay gap was distributed. She also coordinated a booth at the Farmer's Market the weekend before elections, handing out AAUW Get Out the Vote information, as well as information about the C-U branch.

Our winner participated in the National AAUW Voices Project in 2011-2012, writing Op-Ed's on topics including Social Security, Equal Pay Day, and Getting out the Vote. Some of her pieces ran in newspapers throughout the state, including one that ran in the *Chicago Sun-Times* on saving Social Security & Medicare.

Dietrich really has been an agent of change, and we applaud her. Brava, Nancy!

Do you know an Agent of Change?

The process for selecting our next recipient for this prestigious award will begin in January 2015. 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, 2015, **conversations regarding possible candidates should not be delayed.**

There is no longer a "during the past year" requirement for accomplishments. Nominations may come from individual members or branch boards.

For more information, contact Erika Nicketakis, daffodil39@aol.com, 847.623.2342.

MAKE A LIFETIME GIFT TO AAUW



Marla Kim

Have you considered making a legacy gift to AAUW? Your gift will help ensure that the work of AAUW continues long into the future. By providing for AAUW in your estate plans, you can become part of the distinguished AAUW Legacy Circle.

Our regional Legacy Circle Team Member, Marla Kim Benziger of the Deerfield Area Branch and her husband, Bob Benziger, have become Legacy Circle members in part because they found this to be one of the best ways to provide for AAUW for years to come. Marla Kim says, “We appreciate the tax benefits available to us as a result of giving to AAUW, enabling us to continue our commitment to our favorite mission-based programs like the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund and scholarships for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.” Marla Kim is a fixture at National and State Conventions and would like to speak with you about how to make your gift a reality. You may contact her at 847.945.9081 or marlakim2@aol.com.

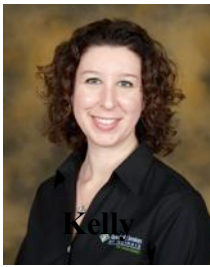
The simplest form of a legacy gift is a bequest, or a gift left to a charity in your will. Bequests often can allow donors to make sizable gifts to charities that may not have been possible during their lifetimes. In a simple bequest, the donor gives a stated amount to a non-profit group without attaching any conditions. Bequest language usually reads:

After fulfilling all other provisions, I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to AAUW (Federal Tax ID #52-6037388), a charitable organization duly existing under the laws of the District of Columbia and located at 1111 Sixteenth St. NW, Washington, DC 20036, _____ percent of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate [or \$_____ if a specific amount] to be used in the areas of greatest need as the board of directors may determine.

You can also name AAUW as the beneficiary of your life insurance, bank account, stock account, or retirement plan. In addition to bequests in your will or living trust, charitable gift annuities are available that can provide you with tax savings and income during your lifetime.

For more information, call Catherine Heffernan at the AAUW Planned Giving Office at 877.357.5587 or email her at heffernanc@aauw.org.





Membership Matters

Kelly Orban and Rachel Campbell
Membership Co-Vice Presidents



Kelly writes: We are very excited to serve as your Membership Co-Vice Presidents again this year. We all share the desire to add new members and retain the ones we have. Getting new members isn't always easy, yet it's a job every member needs to take personally. We have some sound strategies listed below that we encourage you to use at your branch. And as always, if you find something that works very well for you, please share it with us, so we can spread the word.

Make recruiting a priority – set a realistic goal and frequently evaluate your progress. Become familiar with the recruitment cycle: Awareness, Recruitment, Engagement, and Renewal and practice it.

One place to start is to build a recruitment committee to discuss recruiting strategies that work. There's no need to re-create the wheel. Programs drive attendance. If your branch has interesting, educational programs, they will attract like-minded women who are excellent member candidates. When a visitor comes to a meeting, make sure she is welcomed by several members; a "welcoming committee." It's critical to make sure she feels welcome and that she understands what AAUW is all about. After the meeting, follow up with a note, email and/or phone call. Sometimes it takes multiple methods and contacts for someone to join.

As an individual member, take it upon yourself to invite friends and acquaintances to our meetings. Act as the host. It's been shown that a great experience = referrals = new members.

Always have marketing materials, applications and literature handy. Keep these items in your purse or your car. Don't let an opportunity pass you by. Make sure to emphasize why they should join. Share your personal reasons about why AAUW is important to you. The speaker or subject matter of a meeting is likely what drove them to the meeting in the first place. During your contact with prospective members, encourage them to become engaged with AAUW's website, Two-Minute Activist tool, blog posts and Twitter.

AAUW has excellent programs that should always be utilized –Give a Grad a Gift: members can give a **free** one-year national AAUW membership to recent college graduates. Other programs include the Member-Get-a-Member Campaign and the Shape the Future Membership Campaign through which new members receive a discounted rate for joining AAUW at a public event.

Make sure new members are assigned a mentor, a seasoned member, who can build a relationship with the new member. That's key to retention. It takes everyone in the branch working together to make AAUW an association potential members want to join!

Membership VP's – make sure you are receiving AAUW's monthly e-newsletter, "Membership Matters," a great source for ideas and strategies. Use the Member Services Database (MSD) to keep membership records and find Members-at-Large (MALs). Again, don't do it on your own – build a committee, because membership is everyone's responsibility!

As always – if you need more information or assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We would love to hear from you!

From Jennifer Urish, Director of Finance Elect



People are Talking...

Members are talking about the TRIO Stipend, and it's not too early to start thinking about applying for it for next spring's convention in Bloomington and for the AAUW Convention in San Diego in June!

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 that person's registration costs, the member pays one-third, and the State picks up the rest. What could be easier?

TRIO recipient Barbara Harris of the Chicago Branch felt that the best part was “the contact with other branch members.” 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 and the only way to take advantage of them is to **come to convention**. Deborah Richie from Champaign-Urbana “enjoyed the convention a great deal - the combination of information from national and focus on state activities was particularly valuable.”

New state board member Jo-An Takamoto Sabonjian explains it this way: “At convention, it was inspiring to learn what the other branches are doing -- a great place to ‘steal’ ideas. I came back with a renewed purpose to advocate for our issues/positions. When I was asked if I would serve as Co-Public Policy Director, while I worried about the ability to devote enough time, I had no hesitation that I would be working with other people who are dedicated to the mission of AAUW.”

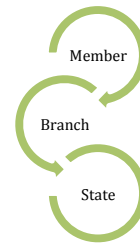
Watch for more information and start planning for your TRIO Stipend today!



Jennifer



Andi Danis, TRIO Coordinator



Trio Program

Help train future branch leaders: designate a member to receive the Trio Stipend!

WHO?

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

WHAT?

The Trio program is a stipend to be used as an incentive for first-time attendees to the AAUW-IL State Conventions in May 2015, and/or the AAUW National Convention in June 2015.

WHERE? WHEN?

The State Convention in 2015 (May 1-2, DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington, IL)
The National Convention in 2015 (June 18 – 21, Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina)

WHY?

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

HOW?

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

For National Convention: Branches may designate one first-time attendee; the State agrees to rebate the amount equal to the Best Value Rate as established for registration (offered from Oct. 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015.) This amount is approximately 1/3 of the total convention expense. The additional TRIO partners, (the branch and the member) are each encouraged to contribute 1/3 as well. The designated attendee will register online at www.aauw.org and pay the full amount due for registration and for any extra events that are reserved. Once registered, the member will submit the rebate form that is available on the AAUW-IL, Inc. website or from the TRIO Coordinator, to have reimbursement confirmed. Each member is expected to attend and fully participate in the convention sessions as included in the basic registration. Confirmed rebates will be processed after the convention has concluded. Recipients will be paired with experienced AAUW members who will share all the convention details.

What's Next?

- Details and registration information for attending the 2015 State Convention will be in the Spring Edition of the LINK.
- Registration for the 2015 National Convention is scheduled to open on October 1, 2014 – check in at www.aauw.org for details and registration. Rebate information will be on the AAUW-IL, Inc. website or will be available through the TRIO Coordinator.

Contact Andi Danis, TRIO Coordinator, at danishouse@sbcglobal.net or 630.892.6366 with questions or for more information!

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

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

**2015 NATIONAL CONVENTION
TRIO ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FORM**

If your branch is sponsoring you for the TRIO Program please fill out the form below, attach a copy of your convention registration, and return to Andi Danis, TRIO Coordinator, via: email to danishouse@sbcglobal.net or snail mail to: Andi Danis, 24 Scarsdale Road, Montgomery, IL 60538. You will receive confirmation of your participation within 1-2 weeks via email (if given) or phone.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE:

BRANCH:

BRANCH POSITION:

(Mark N/A if no position)

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

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

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

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

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

____ I understand that, if confirmed, the Best Value registration amount will be rebated to me after I have attended and fully participated in this convention.

Contact Andi Danis, TRIO Coordinator, at danishouse@sbcglobal.net or 630.892.6366 with questions or for more information!

International Affairs

Donna Sproston & Olga Weidner, Co-Directors



Donna writes:

Update on CEDAW

Donna writes: When the United Nations signed the **Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women** in 1979, most member nations ratified it in a timely fashion. Many people are surprised to learn that the United States is one of the remaining holdouts along with Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Palau, Tonga and South Sudan--strange bedfellows indeed. 187 member nations have ratified CEDAW, which is a blueprint for achieving progress with women's issues. For women in the U.S., those areas that could be specifically addressed include domestic violence, maternal health, economic security, and human trafficking.

The Carter administration quickly sent **the document** on to the Senate for ratification, but there it **has languished with the Foreign Relations Committee for the past 34 years**. The excuses are many: it was brought up for a vote too late in a session, some administrations buried it, the Department of Justice found problems with some of the language, and a few conservative lobbying groups oppose any document on civil rights as a challenge to our national sovereignty. The proponents are many, including the current administration and a large number of organizations across the political and religious spectrum. With the possibility of several Senate seats changing in November, the best opportunity for passage in the next four years may be now.

Senator Barbara Boxer, Chair of the Foreign Relations subcommittee that handles treaties such as CEDAW, convened the most recent hearing in June, and those testifying focused on the worldwide epidemic of violence against women, and urged the Senate to take action on CEDAW. Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority, said, "The women of the world are looking to the U.S. for leadership on this issue. We can no longer remain silent."

CEDAW ratification needs a grassroots effort to tell the Senate that this is important to women, and action is needed now. Contact Senators Durbin and Kirk as well as all senators on the Foreign Relations Committee and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.



Public Policy

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



Jo-An Writes:

ERA, GOTV and BIRTH CONTROL

Jo-An

There are three points for the **upcoming election season** that we want to drive home: (1) **ERA is NOT dead** - contact your State Reps and Rep in Congress; (2) **VOTE YES for the Illinois Birth Control in Prescription Drug Coverage Advisory Question**; (3) **Get Out the Vote!!!** Candidate Forums, Voter Registration, Issue Awareness ... Let us know how we, at the state level and national levels, can help!

We want to make sure everyone is aware of the **five ballot initiatives that will be on all Illinois ballots**. However, the **Advisory Question "Shall any health insurance plan in Illinois that provides prescription**

drug coverage be required to include prescription birth control as part of that coverage?" is in particular alignment with one of AAUW's Public Policy Program concerns - access to contraception. **AAUW-IL is part of the "Illinois Votes for Birth Control" committee and encourages you to VOTE YES on this measure.**

Information about this initiative will be on our national AAUW Action Fund website, along with other information for voters: www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/initiatives. You can also research the issue further at Ballotpedia:

[http://ballotpedia.org/Illinois_Birth_Control_in_Prescription_Drug_Coverage_Question_\(2014\)](http://ballotpedia.org/Illinois_Birth_Control_in_Prescription_Drug_Coverage_Question_(2014)) and see the bill passed by General Assembly putting this on the ballot can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/HB5755>.

The **four other ballot initiatives** are: (1) **Right to Vote Amendment** ... Provides that no person shall be denied the right to register to vote or to cast a ballot in an election ... You can see the bill on the Illinois General Assembly website: <http://tinyurl.com/HJRCA52>; (2) **Crime Victims' Bill of Rights** (This initiative modifies the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights by strengthening the rights of crime victims during criminal court proceedings.) The bill is on the Illinois General Assembly website: <http://tinyurl.com/HJRCA1>. (3) **Minimum Wage Advisory Question**: "Shall the minimum wage in Illinois for adults over the age of 18 be raised to \$10 per hour by January 1, 2015?" <http://tinyurl.com/HB3814>. (4) **Millionaire Tax Increase for Education Question**: "Should the Illinois Constitution be amended to require that each school district receive additional revenue, based on their number of students, from an additional 3% tax on a person's income greater than one million dollars?" You can find **detailed background information** about the ballot initiatives at voterguide.illinois.gov (this site, on the Illinois State Board of Elections website, is not yet live as of press date.) Also see ballotpedia.org/Illinois_2014_ballot_measures for more information.

The ERA is not dead!!! Let's get it passed!

ILLINOIS: SJRCA75 (Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 75) **passed the Illinois State Senate** this spring and is **now in the Illinois House**. There is a **chance that it will be called for a vote during the Illinois General Assembly's fall veto session in November**.

We are asking that you, our membership, contact your Illinois State Representatives and ask them to support SJRCA75 and thank them if they already co-sponsor the bill. **Make some phone calls, send some emails, write some old-fashioned letters** and let your Representative know how important this issue is to you. **See if your Representative is a co-sponsor:** <http://tinyurl.com/SJRCA75>.

FEDERAL: The "three-state strategy," that removes the deadline for ratifying ERA is alive in Congress. **Both of our US Senators from Illinois, Mark Kirk (R) and Dick Durbin (D) are co-sponsors of SJR15.** However, **only 6 of our 18 Illinois representatives** in Congress (Bustos - 17th District, Foster - 11th, Gutierrez - 4th, Kelly - 2nd, Schakowsky - 9th, Schneider - 10th) **are co-sponsors** of the house version, **HJR 113**. Please **contact your member of Congress** -- especially if he or she is not listed -- to let him or her know that this issue is important to you, and write us at aauw.il.publicpolicy@gmail.com or call 847.727.5158 to let us know what responses you received.

Helene de Boissiere-Swanson will be in Illinois! In support of ERA, de Boissiere-Swanson is walking from San Francisco to Washington, DC. Her trek will take her through all of the 15 states that have not yet ratified ERA, including Illinois. We want to join with other ERA supporters and **give her a warm welcome** when she arrives. As she is traveling by foot, the **exact date and location of her arrival is not yet known**. Stay tuned for details! You can **follow her journey** via her posts on Facebook ... facebook.com/deboissiere.

(See more about the ERA on pages 17 and 18)



AAUW Funds

Susan Wood

AAUW Funds Director



Susan

Contributions to Lois List American Fellowship are Encouraged

The goal for Illinois AAUW Funds the past several years has been to encourage branches and individuals to direct their donations toward completing the Fellowships and Research & Project Grants that have been started in Illinois. There is only one American Fellowship remaining to be completed to meet this goal. It is the Lois List American Fellowship #4282, which was started in 2003 by the North Shore Branch (IL) in Lois's memory for her devotion to AAUW.

Lois L. List, born June 6, 1912, was a member of AAUW for 50 years. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1933 from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, majoring in Psychology. She taught Speech and English and was later a Marketing Research Supervisor. She served the North Shore Branch in every capacity: President, Program VP, Membership VP, and Educational Foundation Chair for many years, also chairing the annual Benefit Drive. She participated in many study groups and gave a book review each month to residents of a retirement home. Her dedication to supporting AAUW's endowments for women's higher education was an inspiration to all. She remained active in AAUW until her death at age 86 on May 13, 1999.

The North Shore Branch was composed of older women and has disbanded. Lois List's daughter, Priscilla List, is a member of the West Harris County Branch in Texas and has continued to contribute yearly to the fellowship. However, \$79,755 is still needed to complete it. When the fellowship was established, twenty years were allowed for completion; **nine years remain until the deadline in 2023. Please consider designating your branch and individual Educational Opportunities Fund donations for the Lois List American Fellowship #4282.** Working together, we can surely accomplish this goal!

Remember that to be counted for 2014, all donations must be received at the AAUW office in Washington, DC, **by December 31**, so it is wise to submit them by December 15. Send checks with a completed Contribution Form, available at www.aauw.org.

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

Call for Nominations for State Officers

Lois Strom, Nominating Committee Chair



Nominations for the offices of **President Elect** (one year as President Elect and two years as President); **Membership Vice President** (two-year term); and **Secretary** (two-year term) are due November 15, 2014.

Please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee with your recommendation(s) by November 15, 2014.

Lois

Lois Strom, lcstrom@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.

The Importance of Branch Web Sites

Hi – I am the web manager for AAUW-Illinois. If you haven't looked at the state web site lately, we have a lot of information! Find us at <http://aauw-il.aauw.net>.

It's important for interested people to find out about your branch. They might be interested in membership, scholarship and volunteering opportunities, or fundraising activities. **How can these prospects find you?** A web site is the fastest and easiest tool for interested prospects to discover your branch, and a convenient way to share information with your members.

Out of 38 Illinois branches, 30 do have web sites. That means eight branches do not have a web site yet.

I highly recommend your branch create a web site. To meet that goal, I highly recommend AAUW's FREE resource called **Site Resources**. Find them at site-resources.aauw.org/ Site Resources will create a **FREE** web site for you. They have already created sites for many branches – e.g. lombard-il.aauw.net; peoria-il.aauw.net. You need only provide a member who is able to login in order to update the site – no special software needed! I can't stress how easy and painless the Site Resources process works.

On a similar note, did you know that AAUW created a **new logo for every branch?** Find yours in the Member Services Database at www.aauw.org. Please contact me with any questions about starting a branch web site, or with suggestions for our AAUW-Illinois web site.



Leslie Sulla, Web Manager, aauw-il.aauw.net, relsulla@comcast.net, 630-916-7783

Leslie

Illinois Members Can Be Tech Savvy, Publicly or Privately

Not all Illinois branches are able to conduct a Tech-Savvy event. Yet, Illinois AAUW members can proudly contribute to a Tech Savvy event in their own private way. Many around Chicago and DuPage County are giving their time and talent to produce a Tech Savvy STEM conference. We all know that one's time and expertise equates to some big bucks! Members outside of the Chicago area can **help greatly by sending a donation to help finance the conference**, Nov. 15 in Wheaton. **Any amount is tax deductible. A young girl's future will be better because of your contribution. Time is important to get your name listed in the program book. Checks should be made out to AAUW, with “Tech Savvy-IL” in the memo line and be sent to: Gloria Liu, Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Be like Downers Grove, the branch that sent a \$250 Donation!**

Thank You!

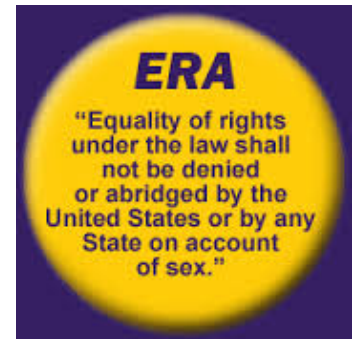
Alice Smith, Elmhurst Branch, Conference Director, AAUW-IL Past President 2000-2002

Your 2014-2015 AAUW-IL State Board



Tired of Being a Second Class Citizen?

Yes, the Equal Rights Amendment is back. No, it is not already the law of the land, although 3/4 of Americans believe it is. A new generation of feminist leaders has joined and breathed new life into the fight to put equality and equal protection for women and girls into the U.S. Constitution. The first version, written by Alice Paul in suffragette days and resurrected by the 70s "women's libbers", was passed by 2/3 of Congress then fell three states short of the necessary 3/4 for ratification. That is why you see references to the "three-state strategy" in efforts to resurrect the Amendment.



There was very little activity on this Amendment for more than three decades. This raises questions about whether, even if three more states vote for it, the ratification would be valid, because the legislation that began it did not address whether there was a deadline. Some say that after such a long dormancy, the issue is DOA. Others, including some formal legal opinions, say if no deadline was part of the underlying law, then the Amendment still lives. There was a deadline, long past by now, in the preamble of the final wording of the Amendment; however, these types of deadlines have been ignored historically. (Note: if you want to refresh your knowledge on how the Constitution gets modified, read Article V.)

Each session, ERA is reintroduced in Congress in both the three-state and the start-over form. And it goes nowhere, regardless of widespread support from women's organizations and in polls. It gets little more than lip service, even from the White House, despite it being in both parties' platforms until recently when the GOP took it out and the Democrats treated it as a kind of footnote.

One way or the other, we have to get it done. Justice Scalia himself underscored the need when he told a legal publication in 2011 that the 14th Amendment does not protect women, as its intent was only racial equality. He also said women have no constitutional right to birth control. Did you know that "gender" was inserted into some civil rights bills in the 60's as a protected class for discrimination purposes primarily in a failed effort to defeat civil rights legislation? So some of the legislative protections we women have are somewhat accidental!

Lately, we have seen serious attacks on gains women have made through legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964--Title VII, employment discrimination; Title IX, discrimination in education at all levels; Title X, gender equity in health care, including reproductive rights--and even laws governing equal pay. Wisconsin rescinded their state Equal Pay Act, and other efforts to level women's compensation for the same jobs have failed at state and local levels.

Courts have further eroded the impact of these laws. Congress is less likely to overturn negative decisions from the Supreme Court than in even the recent past. Some GOP members who used to sponsor ERA have withdrawn support, for fear of the Tea Party. New state legislatures could even try to rescind previous ratification of ERA although that is not likely to stand legally. "Personhood" for embryos--but of course, not sperm--as well as restrictions on birth control, redefining rape, forced vaginal probes...the list goes on.

The arguments against ERA in the 1970s were speculative then and have been proven silly over the last thirty years. The horror of unisex washrooms? Give me a break: they exist all over the world, both public and in all our homes. Drafting women? No more military draft, and women ARE serving, yes, even in combat. The list goes on. And some bugaboos have been superseded by discrimination cases and the economic reality of women working outside the home. Plus, the states that do have equal protection for females in their own constitutions are doing fine, thank you. It will be interesting, entertaining and angering to watch opponents claim, oh so

wrongly, that we simply don't need it. The ONLY constitutional protection women have in the U.S. is the right to vote--and that, too, is being watered down.

Why do we need the Equal Rights Amendment? Because, as we have seen, state and federal laws can be changed relatively easily. Because the courts do not give as much consideration to gender as they do to race, which is specifically mentioned in the (amended) constitution. When a government body has a policy that tends to treat one race differently from another, there is a high level of scrutiny, called "strict scrutiny": they have to have a truly compelling reason to get away with that kind of discrimination, along the lines of legal analysis for violating freedom of speech. Gender only gets "intermediate" scrutiny. Just a pretty good reason for treating women differently suffices. ERA could well change that.

Likewise, that kind of "logic" is reflected in analysis of issues such as sexual harassment, civil cases that generally involve private employers, landlords, etc. When a person is singled out because of race, called names, etc., the cases reflect the presumption that such conduct was unwanted and is inherently offensive (the "N" word for example). In sexual harassment, the victim must meet an initial burden of proof that the inappropriate behavior (the "B" or even "C" word) is unwelcome and creates a hostile work environment, an extra legal hoop to jump through compared to other kinds of discrimination. The ERA could help change that, too.

So the ERA is NOT "just" symbolic, as important and critical as the symbol is. Think the symbolism is not important? Then think of how we wear wedding rings, religious icons as jewelry, or wave the flag on the Fourth of July, or put a rainbow bumper sticker on the car. Think of the impact--without much real legal effect--of the Emancipation Proclamation or the Declaration of Independence. And think of that symbolism as we try to tell emerging democracies to give a fair shake to women. Such hypocrisy when we don't have equality even on paper here! How do we explain this to them, let alone our own daughters and granddaughters?

The ultimate decision is with the States, generally your state legislatures. Believe it or not, it is buried in committee again if it exists at all in many states, and was actually defeated in Arkansas, Florida and Virginia in the last few years' sessions. The old red herrings about gay agendas, abortion, ordaining women as pastors in conservative religions, and, in Virginia, admitting women into the Virginia Military Institute prevailed. Or it was deemed simply "too costly" or "not a high priority."

For those who think all this women's rights stuff is passe here, think about something that struck me recently. My Mom is still alive, old but going strong, and an active voter in a swing state. (Oh, how we agree to disagree on politics!) Women got to vote in the federal election for the first time in HER lifetime, only one generation back. How far have we really come, baby?

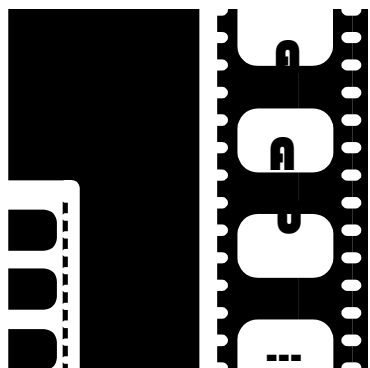
AAUW is working to make Illinois the 36th state to ratify the ERA--this year, during the November Veto Session. It barely passed the Senate in May, with only one GOP vote. We need strong bipartisan support to get it through the House. That means you MUST contact your state rep and tell her/him how important this issue is to you. Involve every person and organization you can. Also contact your Congressional rep., and make sure he or she is sponsoring the three-state strategy bill to remove the deadline. And do these things NOW.

I believed back-in-the-day that that I would be around long enough to see a woman (preferably a progressive one) in the White House, long enough to see the Constitution specifically address my rights. I have waited long enough. Have you?

Marti J. Sladek
Public Policy, Jane Addams Branch



Marti



YOU OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES!

The AAUW-IL, Inc. Board would like to start compiling digital photographs so that we can create a slide show for our 2015 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, 2015**.

Some guidelines:

- 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 (see example below)
- 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.



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

TO:



OF ILLINOIS

Save the dates!

**Northern Fall Conference – Oct. 25
Southern Fall Conference– Nov. 8**

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**AAUW-IL State Convention
May 1-2, 2015
DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington**

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**AAUW National Convention
June 18-21, 2015
Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina**