



# ILLINOIS LINK

American Association of University Women – Illinois, Inc.  
Spring, 2018 – Number 305

## AAUW-IL, Inc. 94th State Convention

**“Make a Difference”**

**Friday - Saturday, April 27 - 28, 2018**

**Hyatt Regency Lisle near Naperville, 1400 Corporate Dr, Lisle  
Benedictine University Goodwin Hall of Business, 5700 College Rd, Lisle**

**Come Friday Night to hear the Keynote Speaker from AAUW National**  
**“Beyond Aspirations: AAUW’s Future”**



**Gloria L. Blackwell** will be the featured Friday evening speaker for this year’s AAUW-IL State Convention. Gloria’s presentation regarding AAUW in the future will contain important information for all of us. There will be time for questions after her talk.

As the senior vice president of fellowships & programs, Gloria is responsible for designing and implementing initiatives to expand women’s and girls’ opportunities in nontraditional spaces through leadership and oversight of \$4 million in fellowships and grant programs; designing and executing a comprehensive set of programs to reshape girls’ and women’s experiences in educational and career settings; and direction of the organization-wide integration of fellowships and programs into every dimension of strategic and operational planning. Gloria also serves as AAUW’s UN main representative, leading global initiatives implemented through collaborations with UN bodies and global coalitions.

Before joining AAUW in 2004 Gloria was the director of Africa education programs at the Institute of International Education (IIE). She also managed fellowships programs during her decade at IIE and has held positions as a Peace Corps staff member and volunteer in Africa. She holds a Master’s degree in Education and Human Development from The George Washington University and a Bachelor’s degree in International Affairs from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Gloria also studied at The American University of Paris. Gloria is committed to supporting opportunities and empowerment for women and girls globally.

### Inside this issue

Convention Information .....	pages 1-3	Gender Equity Fund .....	page 12
Message from the President .....	page 4	Local Engagement Grants.....	page 13
State Board Slate .....	pages 5-7	TRIO Information .....	page 14
AAUW Funds.....	page 8	National Bylaws Amendment.....	page 15
College/University Relations .....	page 9	Convention Registration .....	pages 15-16
Public Policy.....	pages 10-11	Equal Pay Day Chicago.....	page 17
Bylaws and Policy .....	page 12	Dues Increase.....	page 17

## Saturday Keynote Speaker

### Katharine Baker



Katharine Baker is a Distinguished Professor of Law. She is an expert in Family Law, particularly the modern law of marriage and parenthood, and she has written extensively on sexual violence and misconduct, especially in the lives of young adults. Her work focuses on the intersection of women's intimate lives and the law. Her articles have been published in numerous journals, including *Harvard Law Review*, *Yale Law Journal*, and the *University of Chicago Law Review*. She is also the author of *Family Law: The Essentials* (with Katharine B. Silbaugh) and various book chapters. She helped spearhead numerous amicus contributions in the years-long legal battle against the Defense of Marriage Act and is currently active in law reform efforts pertaining to same-sex parenting and sexual misconduct on college campuses. She is a multiple award-winning teacher, having taught Contracts, Property, Family Law, Evidence, Gender and the Law, Sexual Orientation and the Law, Environmental Law, and numerous seminars on feminism. She has also developed and taught several novel experiential courses, designed to prepare law students with the non-doctrinal skills they need to be successful professionals. From 2001-2010 she was Associate Dean for Faculty Development at Chicago-Kent. Prior to joining the Chicago-Kent faculty, Professor Baker was an attorney for the Department of Justice and a law clerk to the Honorable Edward R. Becker of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

## Panel Discussion Moderator

### Jenni Purdue



Prior to the formation of J & J Legislative, LLC with Jennifer Ross in 2011, Jenni worked with Paula Johnson Purdue, contractual lobbyist, since 2007. In her work with Paula Johnson Purdue, she represented many clients in the non-profit, education (Pre-K-Higher ED), environment, social justice, municipal, health and human services fields. In this capacity, she has countless experiences following the legislative process from conception of a bill to getting the bill signed by the Governor as well as working with JCAR and state agencies during the rules process. In addition to her work with Paula Johnson Purdue, Jenni has also assisted other lobbying firms such as Government Affairs specialist, Inc. with Alice Phillips and Loretta Durbin, as well as Larry Stuffle Consulting with Larry Stuffle. Starting in college, Jenni volunteered on many political campaigns – including State Wide, US Senate, Congressional, State Senate, State Representative, and Aldermanic races. In 2009-2010 she was Campaign Manager for the successful campaign of Illinois State Senator Toi Hutchinson.

**AAUW-IL, Inc. 94th State Convention**  
**Make a Difference**  
**Friday - Saturday, April 27 - 28, 2018**  
**Hyatt Regency Lisle and Benedictine University Goodwin Hall of Business**

## Convention Schedule

### FRIDAY, April 27

3:30 to 4:30 pm	AAUW-IL Board Meeting
4:30 to 5:00 pm	2018-19 AAUW-IL Board Meeting
5:00 to 8:00 pm	Registration Open
5:00 to 6:00 pm	Legacy Circle Reception
5:30 to 8:00 pm	Cash Bar Open
6:00 to 8:00 pm	Dinner
6:45 to 8:00 pm	<i>"Beyond Aspirations: AAUW's Future"</i> <b>Gloria Blackwell</b> , AAUW Senior Vice President of Fellowships & Programs
8:30 to 10:00 pm	President's Reception

### SATURDAY, April 28

7:45 to 9:00 am	Registration Open
8:00 to 8:45 am	Breakfast Buffet and Exhibits Open
9:00 to 9:15 am	Opening – <b>Sallie Miller</b> , AAUW-IL President
9:15 to 10:15 am	<i>"Why AAUW-IL Lobbies to Make a Difference – What Branches and Members Do and Can Do to Support these Efforts"</i>
<b>Panel Discussion</b> - Moderator:	<b>Jenni Purdue</b> , Contract lobbyist, AAUW-IL, J&J Legislative, LLC Jo-An Takamoto Sabonjian, AAUW-IL Public Policy Co-Director Marcia Wherry, AAUW-IL Public Policy Co-Director Patricia Spence, Public Policy Chair, Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP
10:15 to 10:30 am	Break – Exhibits Open
10:30 to 11:30 am	<b>Katherine Baker</b> , University Distinguished Professor at Kent Law School <i>"What Title IX and The Legal History of Women's Sports Tell Us about the Regulations of Campus Sexual Misconduct Today."</i>
11:45 to 1:15 pm	<b>Luncheon</b> AAUW-IL President <b>Sallie Miller</b> Agent of Change Award Business meeting, Election of Officers Legacy Circle Recognition and Branch Awards

### **Saturday pm – Special Topics Sessions**

1:30 to 2:30 and 2:45 to 3:45 **Session Choices:**

- A.** Every Branch Plays a Role in the AAUW Mission: Identify your Branch's Role  
**Donna Jean Simon**, Quest International, LLC, Wheaton Glen-Ellyn Branch Co-VP
- B.** Now is the time for the ERA Amendment in Illinois, **Paula Purdue**, Former AAUW-IL Lobbyist
- C.** Overview of Tech Savvy: What is your DNA?  
**Mary Jo Wolsky**, Downers Grove Branch, President & Chair of Tech Savvy, Triton College
- D.** Pay Equity: Key Strategies for Making Change  
**Jenny Waters**, Executive Director, National Association of Women Lawyers

4:00 to 4:30 Closing Wrap Up and Raffle

## IllinoisLink

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

President  
Sallie Miller  
1101 Foothill Dr  
Champaign, IL 61821  
217-356-9214  
[millersallie@hotmail.com](mailto:millersallie@hotmail.com)

Program Co-Vice President  
Laura Desmarais  
1902 Jessica Ct.  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
630-871-1564  
[lkdesmarais@gmail.com](mailto:lkdesmarais@gmail.com)

Program Co-Vice President  
Deborah Richie  
3408 Katie Lynn Dr  
Champaign, IL 61822  
217-621-3208  
[dr\\_drtwin@comcast.net](mailto:dr_drtwin@comcast.net)

Membership VP  
Lisa Cherry  
25713 Parkview Dr.  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137  
630-790-2195  
[lisacherryhome@aol.com](mailto:lisacherryhome@aol.com)

Director of Finance  
& President-Elect  
Jennifer Urish  
13054 Narbonne Dr  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141  
618-719-9497  
[jenniferurish@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferurish@gmail.com)

Secretary  
Sally Vogl  
2120 Lindsay Rd  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217-787-7252  
[vogl.sally@comcast.net](mailto:vogl.sally@comcast.net)

AAUW Funds Director  
Mary Ann Dion  
965 Rogers St., Unit 302  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
630-353-0149  
[maryann.dion@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryann.dion@sbcglobal.net)

Bylaws & Policy Director  
Barbara Simon  
3631 Calderwood Dr.  
Rockford, IL 61107  
[Bjsimon61114@yahoo.com](mailto:Bjsimon61114@yahoo.com)

Nominating Committee Chair  
Andi Danis  
24 Scarsdale Rd  
Montgomery, IL 60538  
630-892-6366 [danishouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danishouse@sbcglobal.net)

## Message from the President

*By Sallie Miller*



Welcome to another exciting AAUW Spring! We had two excellent Fall District conferences. Evaluations stated that the conferences had dynamic speakers, outstanding presentations, and participants learned information to take back to their branches. Many thanks to our 5 district directors for organizing these conferences.

Please join us at the Lisle Hyatt Regency and Benedictine University for our 2018 State Convention, “Make A Difference,” on April 27 & 28. This issue of the LINK is packed with convention details, registration and TRIO procedures for the State Convention.

Included in this LINK is the new AAUW organization chart. Below is some information I learned from a webinar that Kim Churches, AAUW CEO since June 2017, gave to state presidents. Kim is spearheading an AAUW strategic planning process that will culminate with a strategic plan in June 2018. Where is AAUW going? We have a rich foundation, committed members, and we are respected for our work. However, we are known as “an older white women’s organization”. Our founders were rebellious and risk takers. Kim asks, “Why does AAUW matter today?” She emphasizes the need for focus, relevance, and impact for our future, as well as liquidity, adaptability, and sustainability. Our current business model is not sustainable; we need to prioritize. Of our \$22 million budget, only \$3 million comes from our membership. A strategic plan is a tool for guidance, it is iterative and dynamic, and it provides a clear vision. Membership is not the only way forward, we need to meet people where they are. AAUW needs commitment to change to generate new results. During March and April, we will be able to provide feedback for the proposed strategic plan.

Gloria Blackwell, senior vice president of fellowships & programs, will be our featured Friday evening speaker at our AAUW-IL State Convention. Her presentation “Beyond Aspirations: AAUW’s Future”, will be important for all of us to hear. Gloria is a member of the AAUW strategic planning committee. There will be time for questions after her talk.

I have been honored to serve as AAUW-IL president for the past two years. Jennifer Urish, President Elect, will become AAUW-IL president on July 1, 2018. I am delighted that she will be our president, as she is an outstanding leader and supporter of AAUW. Many thanks to the 2017-2018 AAUW-IL Board for all the work and support they have given for our organization; it has been a pleasure to work with all of you.



## Meet the State Board Slate

### Andi Danis, Nominating Committee Chair



The nominating committee is pleased to present the slate of officers for the 2018-2020 term. The members of the Nominating Committee were: Sharon Jenkins (District 1), Alice Huebner (District 2), Eileen Fesco (District 3), Andi Danis (District 4), and Marla Kim Benziger (District 5). Thank you to the committee members and others who suggested possible candidates. We are proud to present the following slate of officers for election at the convention.

### Carolyn Schielderup, Director of Finance-Elect – Rock Island-Moline Branch (District #3)



Carolyn graduated from Illinois State University with an MS in Biology and minors in Chemistry and Education. She retired from Illinois Central College in 2007 as Professor of Biology, after teaching there for 33 years. She joined AAUW in 1994, and was a member of the Pekin AAUW Branch for 13 years, serving on various committees, plus two terms as treasurer and one term as president. After retiring, remarrying and moving, she transferred membership to the Rock Island-Moline AAUW Branch where she has served as secretary and two terms as Finance Officer. Carolyn is currently completing a 2-year appointment on the AAUW-IL Board serving as District 3 Director. Carolyn and her husband just completed seven years of volunteer work with Alternatives for Older Adults in the Money Management Department. Carolyn enjoys golf, reading and traveling with Les, her husband of eleven years.

### Laura Desmarais, Co-Program VP—Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch (District 4)



Laura is seeking a second term as Co-Vice President for Programs. She has served as Co-President and as Co-Vice-President of Programs of the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch. Laura has been a member of this branch since 2003. Like many branch members, she joined AAUW for fellowship, and has embraced National's mission to pursue equality on behalf of women. After pursuing a Master's in Psychology, Laura retired from a career as a Consultant and as a Director of Rehabilitation. She is most happy spending time with her five grandchildren. She also reads, plays golf, and is having a great time playing bridge.

### **Sharon Lee, Co-Program VP, Decatur (District 2)**



Sharon Lee became a member of AAUW and the Decatur Branch in 1995. She has served as the branch public policy chair and co-president, and she has helped plan and work for many branch programs and events. She is currently program vice president of her branch. In 2016, Sharon was appointed District 2 Director on the AAUW-IL Board. As a director, she chaired the 2017 Agent of Change Award – a “duty” that became an honor and an inspiration. Sharon is a native of Monticello. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education as an English major from Eastern Illinois University in 1973. Sharon taught English at Eisenhower High School several years, and then worked 24 years as a receptionist/secretary in her husband, Erik's, dental practice. She is a

long-time member of the Decatur Civil War Round Table and now serves on the Governor Oglesby Mansion Board. Other interests include traveling, gardening, genealogy, and antiquing.

### **Carol Heisler, AAUW Funds Director, Crystal Lake Branch (District 5)**



Carol has been an AAUW member since 1993. During these 25 years, she has held many board positions at her Crystal Lake Branch and at AAUW-IL, Inc. including serving as Illinois State President from 2014-2016. Currently, Carol is the Secretary for the AAUW-IL Gender Equity Fund and Community Interaction Chair (CIA) at her branch. At various times, she has also served as State Nominating Chair, State International Chair, and District 5 Director. Carol is retired from her banking career as a Trust Officer. She is also a member of the Crystal Lake Kiwanis Club and an avid volunteer at her church. She and her husband enjoy traveling, advising their three daughters and spoiling their seven grandchildren.

### **Sallie Miller, Nominating Chair, Champaign-Urbana Branch (District 2)**



Sallie will finish her term as AAUW-IL President on June 30, 2018. She is a member of the Champaign-Urbana AAUW Branch. Sallie is active in her community, serving as an AARP tax aide volunteer, Champaign County CASA advocate, State Health Insurance Assistance Program volunteer, member of Urbana Rotary, and member of the OSF HealthCare Community Leadership Board. Sallie has a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering from University of Wisconsin-Madison. She worked for over 30 years in health care administration for a hospital/nursing home system and a health insurance company. As a former Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic, she has facility in Spanish. Sallie and her husband, Norman, have three daughters and five grandchildren. Sallie's mother was active in AAUW and passed that commitment on to her daughter.

## Barbara Simon, Director of Bylaws/Policy, Rockford Branch (District 5)



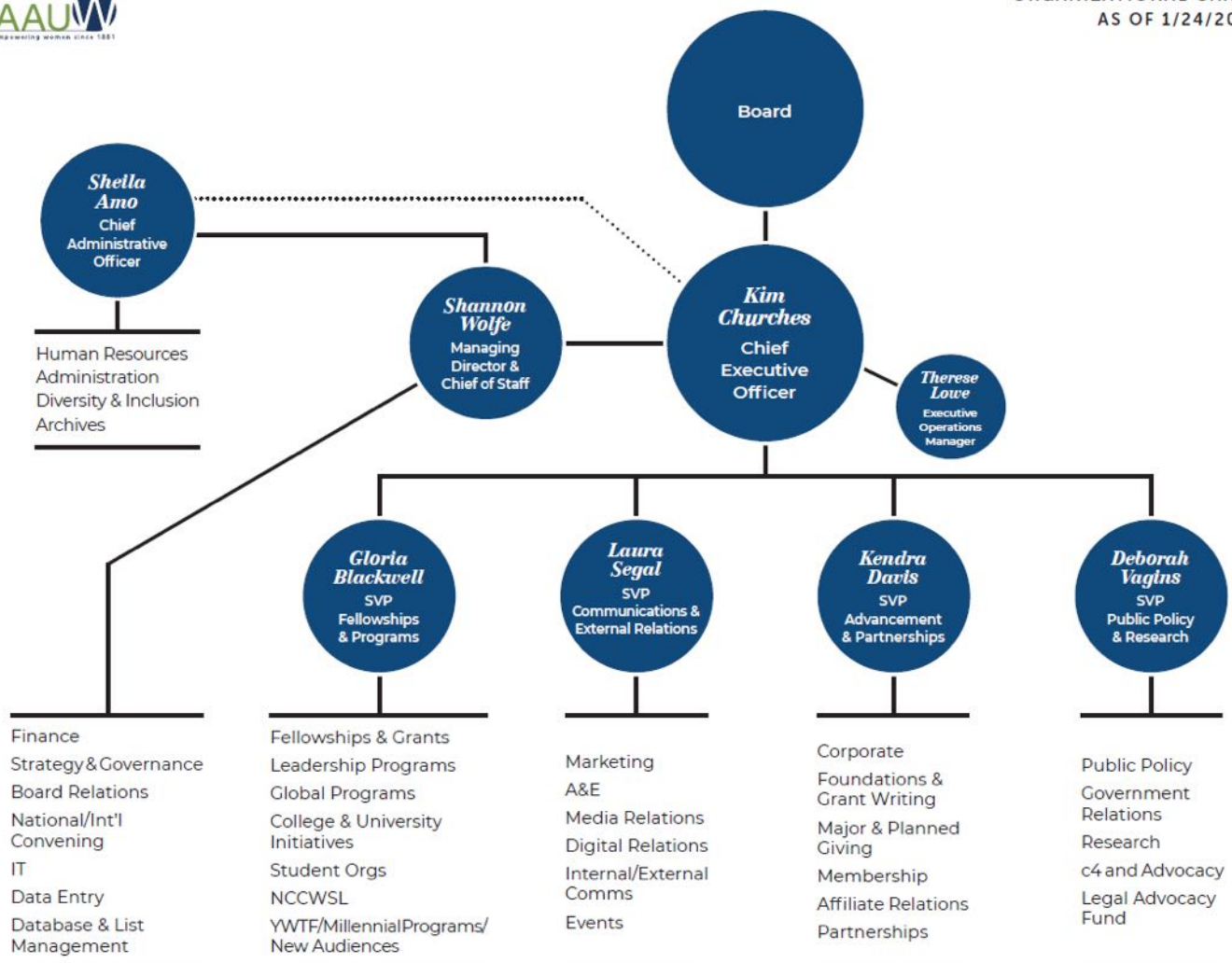
Barbara is a retired music educator and past president of the Rockford Area Branch. "I am pleased to serve again as State Bylaws Chair and I am willing to help branches with their Branch Bylaws documents."

Barbara's other interests include playing the flute, gardening, reading books, making quilts, and enjoying the grandchildren.

## How AAUW is Organized



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART  
AS OF 1/24/2018



**Mary Ann Dion**  
**AAUW Funds Director**



According to the report recently received from National for the year 2017, Illinois branches contributed to nineteen different funds. The fund receiving the most contributions by far is 9110 – The AAUW Fund, which is automatic if you don't include another fund number on the Contribution Report Form. The second largest amount is 4339 – Lois List Fund. I am awaiting a response from National to my request for a 2017 total for this fund, which I hope is nearing completion. \$9,960 was received in 2017 and \$7,180 in 2016. You may recall that the last AAUW-IL Connection reported that at the present time LAF is fully funded. For that reason, I am recommending that this year you consider making a contribution to the Lois List Fund. Once that Fellowship is completed, the funds can be put to work and at the present time, with low interest rates, it isn't growing all that much. Kudos to the branches who have realized the opportunity to assist in completing the fund.

Other funds that have been overlooked except for a few branches, are 2504 – NCCWSL Scholarships and 2505 – NCCSWSL Support. These funds can make a huge difference in the life of a gifted college student. Many of the NCCWSL alumna have gone on to do very important work.

Lastly, upon receiving the report from National referred to above, I sent an email to each Branch President and Finance Director reporting the total contributions identified as coming from the branch, not including individual contributions. If you haven't verified the total for your branch by the time you read this, please reply to me. The purpose of this is to possibly identify a missing amount before the amounts are printed in the convention booklet. I have received several copies of Contribution Report Forms from branches, which can be of assistance in finding discrepancies.





## College/University Relations

Deanie Brown, C/U Director

deaniejd@uis.edu



Happy (almost) Spring!

My pledge to you has been to link (*pun intended*) our AAUW mission and goals with local colleges and universities, in line with our over-arching aim to empower women and girls, including through research and campus initiatives.

Building ties with colleges and universities near our branches and throughout the state also builds potential membership within our branches and support for our programs and projects, including our signature **Start Smart** and **Work Smart** workshops to enable women entering the workforce or enhancing their careers to know and communicate their worth in salary and raise negotiations.

To that end, I will be communicating with the presidents and women's center directors at the following schools to encourage them to become AAUW college and university members: Bradley University, Chicago State University, The Community Colleges of Chicago, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and University of Illinois at Chicago.

Their message from me will be:

Greetings from the American Association of University Women, Illinois! I am writing to strongly encourage and warmly invite you to join the American Association of University Women as a college-university partner and member. I am pleased to serve as director of college and university relations for our state, and it's a pleasure and privilege to correspond with you to promote the benefits of AAUW membership.

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, within a framework of diversity and inclusion. When colleges and universities partner with AAUW they join a community and network of hundreds of other institutions, all demonstrating a commitment to equity in higher education.

Membership provides access to grants and fellowships; leadership development programs and initiatives; educational resources; and advocacy tools, including the opportunity to present Start Smart and Work Smart AAUW signature programs designed to build and polish salary negotiation skills for new and continuing members of the professional workforce, to offset documented gender-based salary disparities. We are also purposeful about enhancing the climate for women in STEM fields and promoting sexual safety on campus as Title IX advocates.

When your institution becomes a college and university partner your students can join online for free, and enjoy an additional year's free membership as a graduation gift! You also have the opportunity to designate two free individual national memberships for a faculty or staff member, which can greatly support scholarly and service activities. Individual members can also affiliate by joining a local AAUW Branch, where members work tirelessly to advance our core mission through informative programs, panel discussions, and other platforms, while also presenting signature events to raise financial support for scholarships for students. Our programs enhance AAUW's presence and profile in the community and build social networks. The cost to your institution is only \$175 annually. Additional information can be found at <http://www.aauw.org/membership/college-university-partner/>.

Please don't hesitate to let me how I can assist you in partnering with AAUW, and please join us in persisting in the noble and necessary goal of empowering women!

Best Regards,  
Deanie Brown, J.D.



**Marcia**

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



**Jo-An**

## **Public Policy Update**

### **Election Activities**

AAUW promotes efforts to register new voters, educate voters on issues, and increase voter turnout. The 2018 election dates are March 20 for the Primary Election and November 6 for the General Election. More women are running for office in 2018 with additional opportunities available due to more incumbents not seeking re-election. Forums, campaign advertisements, and public appearances by candidates increased in recent weeks with almost non-stop plans for events, fundraising and expenditures in the upcoming months.

During the weekend of January 20-21 many AAUW members joined with coalition forces in celebrating the first anniversary of the Women's March events of 2017. This also signaled the kickoff for the Women's March's #PowerToThePolls campaign focusing on combating voter suppression and registering new voters. Deputy registrars may register new voters or update addresses through February 20; online registration is available at the State Board of Elections website through March 4; the last day of grace period registration and voting is March 20 at polls or the election authority.

As voter participation for primary elections is often notoriously low, AAUW and coalition friends are encouraging voters to vote early beginning February 8 and continuing through March 19. Early voting is available by applying by mail for a vote by mail ballot by March 15 or by voting at the office of the local election authority (Office of the County Clerk, in most instances) by March 19. If you plan to be out of town or expect to have difficulty in getting to your polling site on election day, please vote early.

### **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**

AAUW is advocating for a vote on ERA by both chambers of the state legislature in the spring session. The proposed ERA to the US Constitution was written almost a century ago by Alice Paul and then introduced in Congress in 1923. The ERA finally passed in both houses of Congress in 1972 and was sent to the states for ratification. Ratification requires support from 38 states; 36 states have now ratified the ERA, with Illinois remaining the only northern state to not vote for ratification. Despite having an almost identical amendment in the state constitution since 1970, our legislature did not ratify the ERA during the turmoil of the late 70's and early 80's. In the 21st century, only the House voted for ratification in 2003 and only the Senate voted for ratification in 2014.

Senator Heather Steans introduced **SJRCA4** last February and other senators continue to be added as a co-sponsor. Information will be forthcoming for making contacts with your legislators to seek support of the resolution to ratify ERA - it is long overdue, and we are hopeful that efforts by coalition groups supporting women's issues will finally be successful. The status of the resolution can be tracked on [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov) by entering the resolution number in the left-hand column.

Meanwhile, if you have not viewed a 90-minute film, *Equal Means Equal*, about the status of women and efforts to ratify ERA, your branch may borrow a copy from the Gender Equity Fund Task Force or perhaps your local library. We also have five copies of a 30-minute version of excerpts of *Equal Means Equal*, titled

*Legalize Equality.* While it doesn't cover all the topics in the full film, it may be something to share with your legislators or your branch. Please contact Jo-An for the film - first come, first served.

### **Equal Pay Day**

Despite economic growth, the Gender Pay gap continues. April 10 is the date selected to represent how much longer it takes the average, full-time employed woman to earn an amount equal to a man's earnings in the previous year. To publicize the disparity, annual activities on or about April 10 will include rallies in several cities, as well the passage of legislative resolutions to bring attention to pay equity. Through its Local Engagement Grant (LEG-Up), AAUW-IL continues its annual financial support of the Equal Pay Day Rally in Chicago, a well-attended and highly visible event.

2016 data for metropolitan statistical areas (large cities and surrounding counties) shows a gender pay ratio of 80% for Chicago and suburban counties and 77% for St. Louis and suburban counties. The Chicago area ratio is highest for Asian women at 86% with the very low Latinas' ratio at 43%; in the greater St. Louis area the highest gender pay ratio is 80% for Asian women and the lowest is Latinas' at 51%. Use [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) for more facts on action alerts and the success from contacting legislators.

### **Overview of Legislative Activities**

Rallies and meetings with legislators at the state Capitol are well underway for 2018. Prior to the Governor's Budget address on February 14, a group of more than 200 - including AAUW as part of the Responsible Budget Coalition - gathered at the Lincoln statue and then around the rail on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Capitol to promote the "Fair Tax Now" campaign. Rally speakers took their message advocating support for a progressive tax to the Governor's office while others visited legislative offices.

Governor Rauner's proposal for a balanced budget prioritizes a tax cut by reforming plans for pension and healthcare costs, especially by quickly, but gradually, shifting such costs to local school districts and to state employees. AAUW is working with coalition groups to advocate and lobby for fairness and compromise as bills for funding education, healthcare, and social services proceed through the legislative process.

Jenni Purdue of J & J Legislative, LLC is again serving as our consultant for AAUW's "bills of interest." Newly-filed bills await assignment to a committee for a hearing prior to action on the floor of the House and Senate. Jenni confers with legislators, their staff, and other lobbyists/consultants with similar interests. She monitors the movement of bills through the legislative process and provides advice for action that we can take to seek support or opposition for our bills of interest. The public policy staff at the national office continue to provide oversight and technical advice for action alerts on both national and state issues. The alerts for contacting legislators for our bills of interest are emailed to members.

Much of the 2017 special summer session was spent working on legislation for school funding in the long-awaited state budget. The fall veto session also had legislators voting to override the governor's veto of several bills, including SB1351, the Student Loan Servicing bill. For HB 2462, the Equal Pay/Wage History bill, the House voted to override the veto, but the Senate did not. We are now monitoring progress on HB4163 and SB2333, two pending bills with similar language about Wage History. Thank you to all members who helped by personally contacting their local legislators for the 2017 bills.





## **Bylaws and Policy**

**Barbara Simon, Bylaws & Policy Director**

I am pleased to serve again as State Bylaws Chair and am willing to help branches with questions about branch bylaws. Please email me at [bjsimon61114@yahoo.com](mailto:bjsimon61114@yahoo.com) with any questions.

No changes were made to national bylaws at the 2017 convention but, if you are revising your branch bylaws this year, please send me a copy after they are approved. The state bylaws chair is charged with keeping a file of all current branch bylaws.

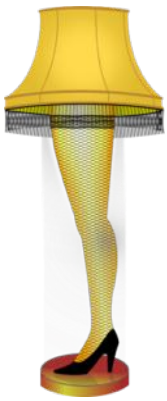


## **Silent Auction for AAUW Gender Equity Fund of IL, Inc.**

The AAUW Gender Equity Fund of IL, Inc. (GEF), formerly called the Gender Equity Fund, is a 501(c)(3) corporation, formed in 1996 by Illinois AAUW members to promote equal opportunities for women and girls. At this year's State Convention, we will again conduct a silent auction to raise funds to support the GEF speaker's bureau and other projects, such as sharing GEF's copies of the movie, Equal Means Equal. Please come prepared to bid on some great items for a good cause! If you have an item to donate for the auction, please bring it with you to the convention. Call or text Susan Wood at 217-899-0964 or email her at [swood710@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swood710@sbcglobal.net) to let her know what you are bringing. Of course, checks made payable to **AAUW Gender Equity Fund of IL, Inc.** are always welcome and are tax deductible as a charitable donation.

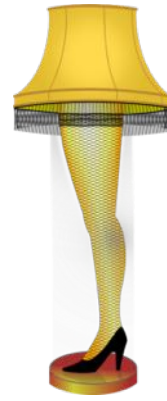
GEF financially supports the transportation expenses of AAUW member leaders to present AAUW mission-based research at branch-organized events around Illinois. Currently, the topics available are Barriers and Bias (Leadership), Solving the Equation (Women in STEM), and The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap. We also loan DVD or theater media copies of Equal Means Equal for public showing, a movie that demonstrates the importance of the Equal Rights Amendment. If your branch is interested in organizing an event featuring either a GEF speaker or the movie, call Carol Heisler at 815-455-1473 or Andi Danis at 630-892-6366.





## ***Local Engagement Grants***

***(LEG-Up)!***



### ***Latest Recipients!***

AAUW-IL is excited to announce the latest recipients of the Local Engagement, Start Smart, and Work Smart Grants:

The Decatur Branch is partnering with Millikin University to host a Start Smart salary negotiation workshop this spring. They hope to educate and empower 40 students.

Naperville Area Branch is hosting a Work Smart salary negotiation workshop for working women in their area.

The Northwest Suburban Branch is partnering with other advocacy groups to co-sponsor the Equal Pay Day Rally, held at Daley Plaza in Chicago on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Chicago, Inc. Branch is hosting a program on media literacy with speaker Susy Schultz of Public Narrative.

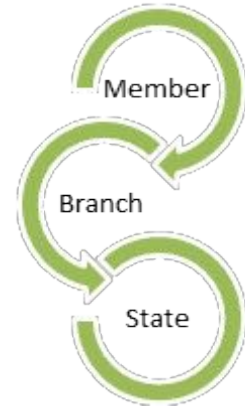
Members from these branches would be glad to give you more details about their programs—contact them with your questions.

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



# **ATTENTION FIRST TIME CONVENTION ATTENDEES!**

## ***AAUW-IL TRIO Program 2018***



The AAUW-IL Board of Directors has voted to continue with the TRIO program for the 2018 State Convention. There is no national convention scheduled in 2018. The program will financially assist one first-time attendee from each branch to participate in the convention by covering registration costs. Your branch can use the program to send someone to Lisle at the Hyatt and at Benedictine University on April 27 and 28.

All of the information on the convention is included in this edition of the LINK. Members may obtain a waiver on the registration cost for the state convention if they are first-time attendees and have the support of their branch. This stipend is limited to one per branch. The registration form for the state convention will request this information—no separate form is required for the STATE convention.

In the past, TRIO has provided a seasoned AAUW-IL leader to answer any questions or provide support prior to the conferences. We will do our best to provide appropriate counsel for the recipients, but this does provide some challenges for the TRIO committee, especially if registrations are made close to the date of the event. We hope applicants will let us know if they need additional advice or guidance if mentoring is delayed.

Please note that it was the intention of the AAUW-IL Board to encourage attendance and suggest that three parties contribute to the program's success—that the member, the branch, and the state share the joy of the member's attendance, thus the name of the program is TRIO for the three different sources of funds. It is understood that each branch handles its own budget and, although encouraged, branches may or may not be able to help financially. Contact [carolheisler@gmail.com](mailto:carolheisler@gmail.com) with any questions.

Please see the registration form for details on obtaining this accommodation.



***Carol Heisler  
TRIO Coordinator***



The AAUW National Board of Directors has voted to put three proposals for bylaws amendments before the membership for a vote this spring. The board strongly supports the proposed amendments that we believe will help keep AAUW vital as an organization and enable us to increase our impact in advancing equity for women and girls.

The proposed amendments address creating three-year staggered board terms, opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership, and eliminating the degree requirement for membership. While rationale and details for each proposed amendment can be found on the [AAUW website](#), the overarching motivation for these changes at this time is to uphold and advance AAUW's mission and ensure optimal execution at the national board level.

The first two proposals would bring AAUW's board governance structure more in line with nationally accepted nonprofit best practices and the needs of the organization. The third proposal — to eliminate the degree requirement for membership — has come before the membership for vote a number of times. The board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

The board recognizes that we have not traditionally put proposals up for vote outside our AAUW National Election, but these proposed changes have been under consideration for several years by both the Governance Committee and the board, and we believe it is important to move forward without delay to position the organization for greater growth.

Members can comment on the proposed amendments and submit their own proposals from February 22, 2018, through March 22, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 25, 2018, and close June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m. ET.

We encourage you all to engage in the respectful debate that has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community, exercise your vote, and encourage fellow members to do the same.

Any questions or concerns to may be directed to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

### Convention Registration Information

**REGISTRATION DEADLINES:** **Early Bird** – Submitted or postmarked before **April 6, 2018**. **General Deadline:** Submitted or postmarked by **April 27, 2018**. **Questions?** Contact Laura Desmarais, Co-VP for Programs, at [lkdesmarais@gmail.com](mailto:lkdesmarais@gmail.com) or [630.854.2730](tel:630.854.2730), or Sue Stauffer at [staufferw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:staufferw@sbcglobal.net) or 847-985-5560.

#### **Online Option - PAY YOUR CONVENTION REGISTRATION WITH CREDIT CARD THROUGH PAYPAL**

##### **Registration Method 1**

Complete the registration form online at [aauw-il.aauw.net](http://aauw-il.aauw.net), and pay your registration through the PayPal button. Save a copy of your registration form and attach it to an email to Sue Stauffer: [staufferw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:staufferw@sbcglobal.net).

##### **Registration Method 2**

Print and complete the registration form on page 16 of this newsletter, or complete the online registration form and print it. Then mail the form, with your check made out to AAUW-IL, to Sue Stauffer, 1031 Seaview Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193.

## REGISTRATION FORM

2018 AAUW-IL, Inc. Convention, Hyatt Regency Lisle, Benedictine University

April 27-28, 2018

Registration Deadlines: **Early Bird** – Submitted or postmarked by **April 6, 2018**.

**General Deadline:** Submitted or postmarked by **April 27, 2018**

Go to [aauw-il.aauw.net](http://aauw-il.aauw.net) for online registration form &/or to pay for convention with credit card or PayPal.

**Register me for:** ☐ Friday Dinner and Program - 6 to 8 pm and President's Reception

Friday Entrée Options (Check 1) ☐ Horseradish Crusted Atlantic Salmon, Lemon Butter Sauce

☐ Blackened Chicken with Roasted Tomato Pesto ☐ Seasonal Vegetable Risotto

☐ Saturday Convention – 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, including breakfast and luncheon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

### Convention Fees

Early Bird Registration for Saturday  
postmarked by April 6 \$55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration after April 6 \$60 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday dinner: \$45 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Past State Pres. Discount -\$15 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TRIO Stipend\*\* -\$55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*Members seeking a TRIO stipend certify that they are attending the state convention for the first time and providing documentation of approval from branch president.

**Check all that apply:** ☐ Branch Member ☐ National Member

☐ State Board Member ☐ College / University Rep ☐ Student Affiliate

☐ Past State Pres. ☐ First-time Attendee ☐ Legacy Circle Member

☐ National Committee Member/Chair ☐ TRIO registrant ☐ Guest

### **SPECIAL NEEDS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have the following dietary restrictions:

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like a display table (please bring table covering)

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in finding a roommate

### **Room reservations at Hyatt Regency Lisle**

**Room rate guaranteed until April 6.**

**\$120.00 + tax**

**for one deluxe king and sleeper sofa.**

**Call 888-421-1442 to request a room with 2 beds.**

**Be sure to ask for the AAUW group rate.**

### **Mail registration form and payment to:**

Sue Stauffer, 1031 Seaview Court

Schaumburg, IL 60193

Email: [staufferrw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:staufferrw@sbcglobal.net)

Home phone: (847) 985-5560

Dedicated website: <https://book.passkey.com/e/49611208>

**Saturday afternoon Special Topics Sessions** – Please indicate which two of the four sessions you plan to attend by writing a 1 for the 1:30 session and a 2 for the 2:45 session.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Every Branch Plays a Role in the AAUW Mission  
\_\_\_\_\_ Now is the time for the ERA Amendment in Illinois  
\_\_\_\_\_ Overview of Tech Savvy: What is your DNA?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pay Equity: Key Strategies for Making Change





## Equal Pay Day Chicago

Equal Pay Day Chicago is **Tuesday, April 10, 2018**, in Daley Plaza (Clark and Washington) starting at noon. Rain location is the Daley Center lobby.

Each year, Equal Pay Day is recognized worldwide to bring greater awareness to the racial and gender pay disparities. In the United States, the April date symbolically marks how far into a new year the average woman must work to earn as much as the average white man did in the previous year.

**Equal Pay Day Chicago** is both a focal point to raise awareness of pay equality, and a platform for organizations to collaborate across the state.

## Dues Increase

It has been 10 years since there has been an increase in dues for AAUW national membership. On January 31, an email was sent to all members from Chief Executive Officer Kim Churches and AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown, containing a link to a short video detailing why a dues increase is now necessary. The video can be viewed through this link:

<https://www.aauw.org/resource/membership-dues-update/>.

Effective March 16, 2018 (Memberships valid through June 2019): National Dues will be raised to \$59.00 from \$49.00. As before, all but \$3 of the national dues amount is tax deductible.

### **In It for Life? Make It Official.**

Put your values into action and empower women and girls for generations to come! [Contact AAUW](#) to upgrade from annual to [lifetime membership](#) today and you will receive a letter of recognition, a certificate, and a lapel pin that you can wear proudly, knowing that you've put your values into action to advance AAUW's mission. Lifetime membership in AAUW is a one-time, fully tax-deductible gift for \$980.

**Take advantage of this opportunity to become a life member at this rate before March 16!**