

AAUW-IL will again have two Fall Conferences this year, so you have an opportunity to choose the time and location that best fits your schedule! Come discover new information, share ideas, and renew your commitment to AAUW. Meet your state officers. Re-connect with old friends and make new ones.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

NORTHERN CONFERENCE

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday, October 6

Illinois Institute of Technology Rice Campus

201 E. Loop Rd

Wheaton



It's a Year of Change

- Meet our new state president
- Learn about new initiatives
- Celebrate successes

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Saturday, October 27

Lincoln Public Library

Carnegie Room North

326 S. 7th St., Springfield



(Parking available in the garage underneath the library.)

- Remarks by President Jennifer Urish
- Title IX Compliance and Initiatives
- Start Smart/Work Smart
- Our Branches: Mission-Based Programs

(Registration Forms on the Next Page)

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

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

**REGISTRATION FOR NORTHERN CONFERENCE
(October 6, 2018)**

Name _____ Branch _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

A buffet breakfast with protein and fruit will be offered, as well as coffee, tea and juices.

Cost is \$25. Mail this form and a check payable to AAUW-IL to Sue Stauffer, 1031 Seaview Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193 (847-985-5560) by **October 1**, or email the form to staufferw@sbcglobal.net and then go to <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/district-conferences>, click on the PayPal button for your conference, and pay online. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Donna Jean at djsimon@questillc.com (630-248-2213) or Jo-An at jtakamoto@gmail.com (847-727-5158).

**REGISTRATION FOR SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
(October 27, 2018)**

Name _____ Branch _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

There will be coffee available upon arrival and lunch will be catered by Panera Bread, featuring tea or lemonade and the ½ sandwich, ½ salad box lunch that includes a cookie and choice of apple or chips.

Please check your lunch choices:

<input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Turkey + Classic Salad	<input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Turkey + Caesar Salad
<input type="checkbox"/> Ham & Swiss + Classic Salad	<input type="checkbox"/> Ham & Swiss + Caesar Salad
<input type="checkbox"/> Mediterranean Veggie + Classic Salad	<input type="checkbox"/> Mediterranean Veggie + Caesar Salad

Plus choice of: ☐ apple **or** ☐ chips

The cost is \$15. Mail this registration form, plus a check for \$15 payable to AAUW-IL, to Judy Griffin, 231 E. Lakewood St., Morton, IL 61550, to arrive no later than **Monday, October 15, or** email the registration form to Judy and pay online at the state website through PayPal (refer to directions at the top of this page.)

Questions? Contact Judy Griffin, 309-253-8227 or grifjua@gmail.com.

Illinois Link

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President

Jennifer Urish
13054 Narbonne Dr
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
618-719-9497
jenniferurish@gmail.com

Program Co-Vice President

Laura Desmarais
1323 Shagbark Lane
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-854-2730
lkdsmairais@gmail.com

Program Co-Vice President

Sharon Lee
138 S. Delmar Ave.
Decatur, IL 62522
217-620-9985
sforanlee@sbcglobal.net

Membership Vice President

Lisa Cherry
25713 Parkview Dr.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
630-790-2195
lisacherryhome@aol.com

Director of Finance

Andi Danis
24 Scarsdale Rd
Montgomery, IL 60538
630-892-6366
danishouse@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Sally Vogl
2120 Lindsay Rd
Springfield, IL 62704
217-787-7252
vogl.sally@comcast.net

AAUW Funds Director

Carol Heisler
461 Rockland Road
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-455-1473
carolheisler@gmail.com

Bylaws and Policy Director

Barbara Simon
3631 Calderwood Dr.
815-637-6430
bjsimon611114@yahoo.com

Nominating Committee Chair

Sallie Miller
1101 Foothill Dr
Champaign, IL 61821
217-356-9214 H
millersallie@hotmail.com

Message from the President

Jennifer Urish



I realized this summer that I have been a member of AAUW for 20 years—so much has changed since then! What hasn't changed is that AAUW continues to advocate for girls and women and this issue of the LINK contains several opportunities for you and your branch to join in those efforts.

The new AAUW-IL Board met in July and began to map out plans for two fall conferences, one on October 6th at IIT in Wheaton, and one on October 27th at the Lincoln Public Library in Springfield. Registration materials are in this issue of the LINK. Please plan to attend the one most convenient for you. These are always great chances to network, learn, and get energized for the upcoming year.

The Board voted to continue the popular Local Engagement Grants (LEG-Up) and Start Smart and Work Smart Grants. We also decided to remove the deadlines for the Start Smart and Work Smart Grants to give branches more flexibility. Information and applications are on the website (aauw-il.aauw.net). These grants are a great way to help your branch hold a mission-based program—give them a try!

Mark your calendars for the state convention—May 3-4, 2019 in Springfield. More details will follow, and the TRIO program will be in effect. The TRIO program is available to first-time attendees and it has proven to be a valuable way to introduce future leaders to AAUW.

Watch your email inbox for the September issue of AAUW-IL Connection. This electronic newsletter is an important way to keep current on issues and news from around the state. If your branch has something to include, please email it to me.

Don't forget that the Gender Equity Fund maintains a speakers' bureau—if your branch is looking for a mission-based program on the AAUW research topics, this is an easy way to do it. Look inside this issue for more information.

I encourage everyone to read the new Strategic Plan that was made available recently. You can find it on the AAUW website (aauw.org). It has been updated, both in appearance and scope. This also might be a good time to read through our Public Policy statement, also on the AAUW website. Both documents will help focus branches and may provide ideas for programming.

Last, but certainly not least, congratulations and many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to help get ERA passed by the Illinois General Assembly! Your years of hard work and dogged determination paid off! What an accomplishment—the rest of us are very proud of you!

I hope I get to see all my old friends and meet lots of new ones at an AAUW-IL event this year. Please don't hesitate to call or email me if you have a question or concern.

JenniferUrish@gmail.com

618-719-9497



2018 AGENT OF CHANGE SHERYL HALL

Sheryl accepting the 2018 Agent of Change award at the AAUW-Illinois convention.

We at AAUW-IL, are proud to announce that Sheryl Hall is the recipient of the 2018 Agent of Change Award. Sheryl Hall is a member of the Rockford Area AAUW Branch where she has been an active member for many years, but recently she has been an outstanding asset. Through the Rockford AAUW STEM Scholarship Committee, she helped the local branch excel in meeting and exceeding their goals for scholarships to local high school senior females who are going on to college/university to study in a STEM career field. First, Sheryl created a mailing to members inviting them to donate to the scholarship and included the opportunity for the member to dedicate the donations in honor of or memory of a friend/relative which was then listed in the annual directory. Second, Sheryl secured an anonymous donor who set a Goal Challenge for the fundraising event which created great excitement for the AAUW members and their friends. Sheryl's ideas and leadership tripled the amount generally donated to the scholarship awards, so that in 2018 four \$1000 awards will be offered.

As a result of Sheryl's outreach, the Rockford Area AAUW Branch engaged with KFACT to help young girls who truly needed resources, since their families did not or could not support their daughter's dreams of finishing high school and college. During the year, the Rockford Area AAUW Branch gathers the items needed for a student to attend higher learning, such as bedding, dishes, and other items needed to supply a dorm room.

However, the activity that is bringing real attention to the Rockford Area AAUW Branch, and which is Sheryl's biggest undertaking, is the fundraising for a \$7 million museum and educational center which will also host girls' baseball games at the famed Beyer Stadium, home of the Rockford Peaches. This project is the International Women's Baseball Center. The educational center hopes to form programs to help children learn through sports; for example, using math in scorekeeping and learning about management funding. The IWBC will be partnering with and recognizing AAUW Rockford Area Branch and several other local organizations as this project moves forward.

Congratulations, Sheryl!

History of the Agent of Change Award

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

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

The Agent of Change Selection Committee chose to honor Sheryl Hall with the 2018 award, and the committee wishes to thank Karen Hoffman and Diane Kuehl of the Rockford Area Branch for nominating her. Sheryl was named the 2018 Agent of Change at the AAUW-Illinois State Convention on April 28, 2018.

2018 AGENT OF CHANGE AWARD

The process for selecting our next recipient for this prestigious award will begin in January 2019. Branch presidents will receive a packet with instructions, criteria, nomination forms, and a list of past winners. The deadline for nominations will be March 1, 2019. **Conversations regarding possible candidates should not be delayed.** Nominees should be outstanding models who have actively promoted change in education, equity, diversity, and/or public policy. The nominee's accomplishments should show direct involvement with the member's branch and/or other AAUW national initiatives.

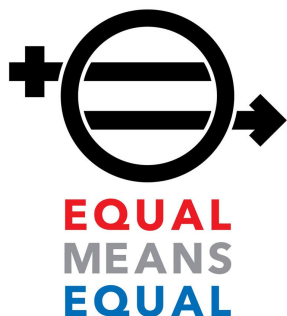
This award emphasizes promotion of AAUW's mission and purpose as well as bringing visibility to AAUW.

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

For more information, please contact Donna Jean Simon, AAUW-IL District 4 Director: djsimon@questillc.com or 630-248-2213.

Looking for a Program? Contact AAUW GEF of IL, Inc.

There are no more excuses.



HEROICA FILMS Presents A KAMILLA LOPEZ Film EQUAL MEANS EQUAL
Executive Producers LEE LOPEZ & PATRICIA ARQUETTE Producer JANEL MARSHALL Co-Executive Producer JUDITH SARABA Co-Writer & Producer EMILY SHAYS
Art Director SARAH BUCHANAN Editor GARY STERNBERG Music by CHARLES-HEMOR AVELLANE and KATHRYN BUSTIE
Written, Directed & Produced by KAMILLA LOPEZ
www.equalmeansequal.com ©2010

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. 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. GEF also loans 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.

Your 2018-2019 AAUW-IL State Board





Lisa Cherry
Membership VP

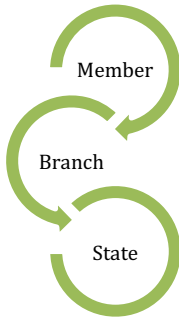
Membership Matters



What is BEST? Each spring we have sent out a questionnaire to all branch presidents that is titled the *Branch Excellence State Twenty* (BEST). The purpose was to offer branches the opportunity to review the year and evaluate their branch performance of best practices. These are specific accomplishments that we know contribute to membership satisfaction and retention. Most of us are deeply involved right now with planning our year. Let's take a different, proactive approach with BEST this year and consider these opportunities for a productive, mission-based and active branch.

- Review the Public Policy Brochure and have a Public Policy program
- Sponsor or co-sponsor a GOTV campaign or candidates forum
- Sponsor or co-sponsor a STEM conference
- Collaborate with another local organization to have a program or event
- Have a program that addresses a global women's issue
- Have an AAUW Fellow or LAF Plaintiff speak to your branch
- Have a fundraiser for AAUW Funds
- Send members to the National Convention when scheduled and use TRIO
- Send members to the State Convention and use the TRIO program
- Send branch members to the Fall Conference held in your district area
- Produce a Branch newsletter and pack it with relevant information
- Have Branch Program meetings at least four times during the year
- Encourage a branch member to serve on the State Board or on a Committee
- Encourage a branch member to serve in a National Office or on a Committee
- Create or maintain a branch website and Facebook page
- Encourage inclusion/diversity with programming and collaboration
- Apply for a LEG Up grant from AAUW-IL
- Publicize AAUW's Legacy Circle
- Host a membership event specifically for new or potential members
- Distribute copies of AAUW research to community organizations

Consider the three points in the membership cycle: Recruitment, Engagement and Retention. Membership data shows that turnover rate is highest in the first year of joining a branch. These individuals are not being engaged in branch activity and their expectations are not being met. With all of the opportunities available for engagement listed above, if we get them involved it is hard to imagine losing a new member. Engaging and retaining membership: that's my definition of BEST!



TRIO Program



Sallie

RETURNING for 2018-2019

Members who have never attended a State or National Convention are eligible. Stipend recipients will 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 Convention in May 2019, and/or the AAUW National Convention.

WHERE? WHEN?

The State Convention in 2019 (May 3-4 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL)

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 found in the Spring LINK Newsletter 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.

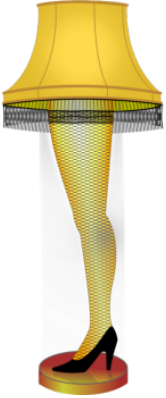
Contact current TRIO Coordinator, Sallie Miller, millersallie@hotmail.com or 217-722-9029 with questions or for more information!

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.



AAUW-IL Grants awarded in 2018

Local Engagement Grant (LEG-Up) Recipients



Crystal Lake Area AAUW Branch received a **Local Engagement Grant (LEG)** to continue the REEL LIFE! Program, partnering with the CL Public Library to show currently released films with strong female leads or director. The films are advertised locally and open to the public. Following each showing, a discussion is held about how women were depicted in the film, the feminist issues, and implications for women's equity.

Jane Addams Branch received a **Local Engagement Grant (LEG)** to continue to provide mission-based programming in a virtual environment. This is the second year of this project. These online programs will be promoted to other branches and national members. Non-members would be welcome to attend as registered guests. Online programs can be recorded and shared with members.

Work Smart Grant Recipient

Naperville Area Branch received a **Work Smart Grant** to conduct a Work Smart workshop for approximately 40 participants in the fall of 2018.



How can your branch apply?



Carolyn

Your branch can be next on this list. The simple application forms can be downloaded from the website at <http://aauw-il.aauw.net/grants-for-branches/>. The next deadline for LEG Up Grant application is November 30, 2018. Start Smart and Work Smart Grant applications can be submitted any time during the year and will be acted on within 30 days.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Schjelderup at cs_schj@yahoo.com.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR STATE OFFICERS, FY 2019

Sallie Miller, Nominating Committee Chair



Now that Fall is here it is time to think about our talented AAUW members who can help lead our branches and state by serving on the AAUW-IL, Inc. State Board! This is an opportunity to serve AAUW and work with members from throughout Illinois.

Nominations are now being accepted for the offices of:

- *President Elect (one year as President Elect followed by two years as President)
- *Membership Vice-President(s) (two-year term)
- Secretary (two-year term)

AAUW-IL NOMINATING COMMITTEE for 2018-2020

Chair	Sallie Miller	H: 217-356-9214	C: 217-722-9029
District 2		1101 Foothill Dr., Champaign, IL 61821	millersallie@hotmail.com
District 1	Linda Knogl	H: 618-444-6788	stephandlin@yahoo.com
		22 Westgate Dr., Granite City, IL 62040	
District 3	Sylvia Martin	H: 309-786-1152	sajm2m@gmail.com
		3621 32 nd Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201	
District 4	Elaine Fisher	H: 630-355-9066	C: 630 335-4917
		993 Sylvan Circle, Naperville, IL 60540	edanassoc@hotmail.com
District 5	Nann Blaine Hilyard	H: 847-872-2688	nbhilyard@att.net
		511 College Ave., Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096	

Please contact any of the above members of the Nominating Committee if you know of someone who might be interested in serving at the state level, INCLUDING YOURSELF! **Nominations are due to the committee by November 30, 2018!!**

*State Board experience required



PUBLIC POLICY AND YOU!

Susan Scott and Tracey Sherman-Falcon
Public Policy Co-Directors



Susan
susscott1@yahoo.com

Tracey
shermanfalcon@hotmail.com

During this spring's AAUW-IL convention, attendees enjoyed a lively Public Policy panel discussion in which we learned about AAUW lobbying efforts in Springfield. Did you know that we utilize a professional lobbyist, J&J, to ensure bills that align with AAUW priorities are reinforced with our legislators? But we are all responsible to take part!

During the panel discussion, actions for **branch members** were identified:

Know who your national, state and local representatives are – contact & visit them!	Sign up to be a Two-Minute Activist
Read Public Policy information in newsletters, FB page and Action Network	Respond promptly to action requests that you receive
Review the AAUW Public Policy Program/Principles/Priorities	Affiliate with other organizations that share AAUW Public Policy priorities
Acknowledge your AAUW membership as lobbying	Vote and support candidates that align with AAUW Public Policy priorities

ERA UPDATE

We did it! Illinois is the 37th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment after years (decades) of hard work!

*Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States
or by any State on account of sex.*

We would like to thank you for all that you have done to get the ERA passed in Illinois. Our AAUW members rallied, made phone calls, wrote postcards, lobbied and took part in AAUW's Two-Minute Activist.

This past spring there was a strong push by AAUW members to ensure its ratification. Fact sheets and informational coloring books were prepared and distributed on Equal Pay/Lobby Day at the State Capitol. Women from around the state made their voices heard on May 8 at the ERA Rally Day in Springfield. Then on May 30th, one day before the state legislative session adjourned, the House approved ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by a one-vote margin.

PUBLIC POLICY (continued)

Although the amendment was ratified, our work is not done. We are hoping to persuade our Illinois congressional representatives to become co-sponsors for H.J. Res. 53 to remove the ratification deadline. We are focusing on Republican members of Congress Peter Roskam, Mike Bost, Rodney Davis, Randy Hultgren, Adam Kinzinger, and Dan Lipinski. If your Congressman is mentioned above, please email either one of us and we will send you a phone script and letter to the editor template to try to get their support on this resolution.

And we are hopeful that one more state (most likely Virginia) can ratify the amendment to take the work begun by Alice Paul in 1921 across the finish line!

KEEP INFORMED

As Public Policy co-chairs, we will continue to use Google Groups to send out updates and appeals to all branch Public Policy chairs and to any other AAUW-IL members who wish to be informed. Please contact us if you want to be included (or removed from) our **AAUW-IL Public Policy Google Group**.



AAUW Mourns the Loss of LAF Founder Katherine "Kappy" Eaton

Katherine "Kappy" Eaton passed away earlier this month at age 94. Eaton was well known throughout AAUW and valued greatly within her AAUW member state of Oregon. During her longstanding commitment to the organization she served as the executive vice president of AAUW and started the Legal Advocacy Fund during the 1981 AAUW National Convention. Since then LAF has provided millions of dollars to balance the scales of justice for people working toward gender equity through the legal system.

Eaton's legacy will live on through the hundreds of landmark cases LAF has supported, such as [Wal-Mart v. Dukes](#) and [Cioca v. Rumsfeld](#), as well as ongoing cases with the potential to change the future legal landscape, such as [Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education](#).

Thank you, Kappy Eaton, for your visionary leadership.



AAUW Funds

Carol Heisler, Director

Carol

One of the things that AAUW members have supported well is the AAUW Foundation. Our members have been donating to the Funds for many years....so many—that about 930 designated funds exist. Most are considered endowed funds. About 3.7 million from these funds help to support education, research, leadership and community action grants each year. Most of the funds are designated 501c3 charities; i.e., tax-advantaged donations accepted. A few are not—the Action Fund is a 501c4 designated fund but should not be confused with the Public Policy Fund which is a 501c3.

While it is always good to hold a reserve of investments to support our work going forward, my estimate on the “endowed funds” is that the total amount held is about \$72 million or \$77,000 in each one of these 930 accounts. The amount spent each year is apparently based on a formula using interest rates, capital gain, and dividends spread over a 3-year period creating a moving average percent. I’m going to call it the magic sauce. The idea, of course, is to retain most of the principle, yet spend resources towards our programs. If I had to guess I’d say the percentage withdrawn is about 5% in the past couple years.

One can see that the board “what to spend and what to save?” discussion was/is probably fascinating. All times in our history have presented one challenge or another, so saving for future challenges and narrowing current ones is hard. AND isn’t it true that holding onto the money would be tricky if the current organization folds?

Lately, we have been encouraged to donate monies that can be used immediately. Monies used by the AAUW Fund, Legal Advocacy Fund, Eleanor Roosevelt Fund (research), Educational Opportunities Fund, Leadership Program Funds (e.g, NCCWSL), and Public Policy are immediately available to sponsor our initiatives and programs. While it would be nice to be able to hold off until the future, the need to stand up for women and girls is great now. Some of the battles that we have already fought (maybe even a couple times!) are still waging, while others attempt to erode the progress we have made. Women and girls still do not have equal pay or equal opportunity or the absolute right to control their own bodies. Women still face discrimination as outnumbered corporate and non-profit board trustees, as tenured professors, as full partners in some domestic situations, as the under-paid work force in many female-heavy occupations, as the un-hired applicant for nontraditional jobs, and as the female college graduate with higher student debt than male counterparts.

When donating to the Foundation, please consider carefully your pet projects or fund, and make an informed choice. Be aware of the numbered fund you are supporting. Is the bulk of your donation spendable now, or is most of it deferred until later? The choice is completely yours, and should be made with an open heart and mind.



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

TO:



OF ILLINOIS

Save the dates!

Northern Fall Conference – Oct. 6
Southern Fall Conference – Oct. 27

AAUW-IL State Convention
May 3-4, 2019
Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL
