



ILLINOIS LINK

**American Association of University Women – Illinois, Inc.
Spring, 2020 – Number 309**

Message from the President Jennifer Urish



It doesn't take long for your legacy to change. On my long-term list of things to accomplish before my term ends, the last entry is "write up accomplishments" for the policy booklet. I'd been formulating phrases in my head about the long-planned and highly anticipated multi-state regional convention. The planning committee had worked many hours and had lined up great speakers and many people from 14 states had registered. My aunt Betty (member in Minnesota) was already registered and the committee that hadn't met each other face-to-face was planning to have cocktails together.

As you know, the convention, and everything else the branches and the state had planned, has been cancelled. The committee has decided to reschedule the convention for summer 2021. Someone on the committee pointed out that there will always be women's equity issues to learn about and act upon, so our program and speakers will be just as exciting and dynamic next summer. Stay tuned, and thanks to everyone who reached out to me after we cancelled.

So, back to my legacy—we're going to vote online for officers since we are not having a state business meeting. Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find the slate of officers and details about voting. The Link will serve as the thirty-day notification of the election. We're also going to publish the Board reports that we are to provide. I know branches are voting by email and holding video meetings, so voting this way shouldn't look too different to most of you. Watch your email for details of the voting process.

So, I guess this is the new normal, although I didn't expect my son to be completing his freshman year of college in my basement. Our nest wasn't empty long! My family is all healthy and we're staying home. I hope that this finds you healthy and coping with all the changes. Continue reaching out to others online, on the phone, or virtually, and take care of yourselves.

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Convention Details

The Board will be distributing their annual reports digitally this year because we will not be meeting at the convention. Members will receive a link to these reports soon, and they will be available on the state website for you to download. As was the case when we met in person, please feel free to reach out to the Board with any questions you have about the reports. Contact information for each Board member will be on the reports.

We will still be awarding the Agent of Change and Funds awards. We'll just be doing it in a different way. Please watch your email for details.

Thank you for your flexibility,
Jennifer Urish, President
AAUW-IL, Inc.



Susan
susscott1@yahoo.com

AAUW-IL Public Policy Update
Susan Scott and Tracey Sherman-Falcon
Public Policy Co-Directors



Tracey
shermanfalcon@hotmail.com

You can follow official communication regarding COVID-19 from Illinois government officials on these sites.

<https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19>

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>

Election Details

Because we are not meeting at a convention this year, we will be electing new officers with an online survey. The Bylaws mandate that members be given thirty days notification of the slate of officers and that nominations may be made from the floor. This issue of the Link will serve as the thirty-day notification. In thirty days, you will receive an email with a link to the online ballot. There is also a ballot below that you can mail back to me with your votes. If you have a nomination to make, please send it to me within the thirty-day window.

The slate of officers is:

Co-Program Vice Presidents	Sharon Lee Becky Glimco	Decatur Naperville Area
Finance Director Elect	Carolyn Schjelderup	Rock Island-Moline
AAUW Funds Director	Laura Desmarais	Wheaton-Glen Ellyn
Bylaws/Policy	Andi Danis	Aurora Area
Nominating Chair	Jennifer Urish	Belleville

Jennifer Urish, President
AAUW-IL, Inc.

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AAUW-IL, Inc. 2020 Election

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Co-Program Vice Presidents	Sharon Lee Becky Glimco	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Finance Director Elect	Carolyn Schjelderup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AAUW Funds Director	Laura Desmarais	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bylaws/Policy	Andi Danis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nominating Chair	Jennifer Urish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for voting. Please mark your ballot and
mail to Jennifer Urish postmarked by May 31, 2020.

Meet the State Board Slate

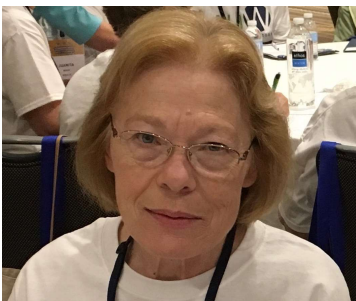
Sallie Miller, Nominating Committee Chair



The nominating committee is pleased to present the slate of officers for the 2020-2022 term. The members of the Nominating Committee are: **Linda Knogl** (District 1), **Sallie Miller** (District 2), **Sylvia Martin** (District 3), **Elaine Fisher** (District 4), and **Nann Blaine Hilyard** (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.

Sharon Lee, Co-Program Vice President - Decatur Branch (District 2)

Sharon will complete her commitment as AAUW-IL Co-VP for Programs in 2018 and is seeking a second term. Her service on the state board began in 2016, when she was appointed the District 2 Director. Sharon joined the Decatur Branch in 1995 and has served many terms as public policy chair and program vice president, and one term as co-president. She currently serves as the Decatur Branch Program VP, and especially enjoys the opportunity to provide programs in her community that promote AAUW's mission. Sharon grew up in Monticello. She and her husband, Erik, have lived in Decatur for over 40 years. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Eastern Illinois University, Sharon taught high school English for several years. She then worked 24 years as the receptionist in her husband's dental practice. Happily retired now, Sharon loves the gift of time to spend with family, friends, and other interests.



Becky Glimco, Co-Program Vice President, Naperville Area Branch (District 4)



Becky had the great fortune to be introduced to AAUW as a college senior at Augustana College at a tea hosted by the local AAUW branch in the Quad Cities. Upon graduating, she joined the Western Springs Area branch and held the positions of Program VP and President. Becky was fortunate to be invited to serve on the IL state board as the District 4 Director and State Secretary. A move to Naperville, IL led to additional leadership opportunities including Booksale Chair and two terms as Co-President. Currently, she works on the Naperville Area Program Committee. With degrees in psychology and biology, Becky started her work career as a social worker, owned an Aerobic Exercise Company geared toward pre and postnatal women, and last worked selling Graduation Gowns and Class Rings in Chicago area high schools. Becky now spends her days trying to keep up while babysitting full time for her two young grandsons.

Carolyn Schjelderup, 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, 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, Finance Officer and currently President. Carolyn has served on the AAUW-IL State Board as District 3 Director and Finance Director.

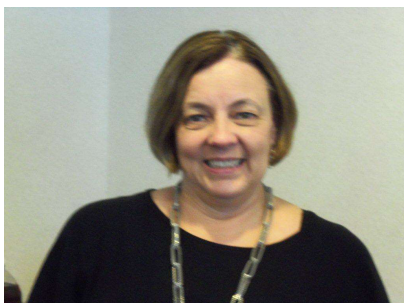
Laura Desmarais, AAUW Funds Director – Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch (District 4)



Laura is currently Co-Vice-President of Programs. She served four years as Co-President of the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch. She has been a member of this Branch since 2003. Like many Branch members, she joined AAUW for the book groups and has become a fan of National AAUW and all it accomplishes on behalf of women.

After pursuing a Master's Degree in Psychology, she retired from a career as a Consultant and as a Director of Rehabilitation. She is most happy camping with her five grandchildren. She also reads, plays golf, and is having a great time re-learning bridge.

Andi Danis, Bylaws & Policy Director – Aurora Branch (District 4)



Andi is a past State President of AAUW-IL. She has also served on the State Board as Nominating Chair, District 4 Co-Director, Director of Finance, and LAF Director. She is a member of the Aurora Area Branch and has served in various capacities at the branch level, including Membership Chair, Program Chair, two terms as President, and her current role as Treasurer. Andi has been part of the Speaker's Bureau of the Gender Equity Fund. Outside of AAUW, she is currently serving her third term as President of the Board of Directors of Mutual Ground, (the domestic violence/sexual assault agency in her county,) and on the Board for Breaking Free (a substance use disorder treatment agency.) She is also a member of 100+ Women Who Care and Vice-President of the Minerva Coterie Literary Society of Aurora.

Andi recently retired from a career in higher education administration, spending 25 years at Aurora University. She has been married for 45 years to husband, Ed; has two daughters, and one absolutely perfect grandson, Age 9. (Picture available upon request.) Beyond advocacy, Andi enjoys reading, travel, playing bridge, and spending time with family.

Jennifer Urish, Nominating Chair – Belleville Branch (District 1)



Jennifer Urish has been serving as AAUW-IL Board President for the past two years. She has served on the Board as Secretary, Co-VP, Membership, Finance Director, and District 1 Director.

She lives in St. Louis with her husband and son. She works for the St. Louis Cardinals and is most likely watching a baseball game, riding her bike, or working a jigsaw puzzle in her spare time.

College/University Relations **Ruth Holst, C/U Director**



There are currently 17 College/University (C/U) Partner Members in Illinois. The four C/U Partners that did NOT renew for 2019-2020 are College of DuPage, John Logan College, Knox College and University of Illinois-Chicago. One institution, Black Hawk College in Moline, has expressed interest in becoming a C/U Partner.

During the past year, I have sent two messages to the C/U Partner Representatives, one to let them know about the Fall Conferences held in two locations in the state, and a second message in February to remind them of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Spring 2020 to be held at the University of Maryland. NCCWSL has since been cancelled for this year.

In October, I had the opportunity to present the results of the Spring 2019 C/U survey at the Fall Northern Conference. The survey was sent to all Illinois Branches to gather data on the level of activity that Branches had with colleges in their respective areas. The report engendered some interesting discussion among audience members at the conference. Fewer than half of branches in the state have established relationships with colleges in their areas.

On the national level, the C/U committee was eliminated in 2019 and rolled into the Development Committee along with 3 other committees, including membership. The annual NCCWSL conference continues to be an important focus for AAUW, emphasizing the importance of leadership skills for college and university women.

At the state level, I believe that the AAUW-IL Board should have some discussion about the pros and cons of working with C/Us and determine how much emphasis we want to place on working with C/Us in the future.

Carol Heisler
AAUW Funds Director



AAUW Funds

AAUW-IL Branches had another good year with consistent donations to the Funds in 2019. I am so proud of our members whose priorities remain with AAUW to advance women's rights and seek opportunities for women and girls. Most of our endowment funds are fully funded and continue to support scholarships and community grants. Our current needs have stretched our budget and our fundraising efforts. Our members and branches, though, accepted the challenge and a large percentage of new monies are designated for immediate needs.

If you are stumped for a new fundraising idea, there are some good suggestions on the website—just put Resources for AAUW Fundraisers in the search box. Many Illinois branches are mentioned and whether or not these branches are still doing these fundraisers—you may be able to steal/borrow a great idea.

It is always good to have members simply find their checkbooks and write a check (always appreciated) or make a donation out of their traditional IRAs. On the other hand, actually sponsoring an event can increase branch morale, encourage leadership, and develop comradery among members. Having a “signature” fundraiser can also increase visibility for AAUW and its mission in your community.

Since most of our branches do not operate with a 501(c3), it can be tricky when advertising your event. If there is one thing I have learned—it is that a raffle is a game of chance and not a donation. Even the luncheon for which you pay \$50 is not deductible to a 501(c3) in its entirety because the deductible amount is considered to be the amount above the cost of the meal. So, if your group pays \$40 for the meal, only \$10 would be eligible. If your group does not have non-profit designation, none of the amount is deductible.

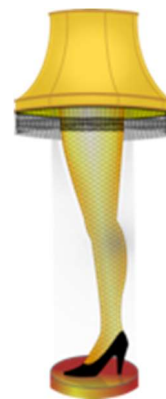
The donation of books always carries some interesting baggage, too. In most cases, you might want to use the standard deduction on your tax return and not bother listing your book donations. Of course, if you have first editions and antique books; your situation would warrant more paperwork. I looked up donating books on the IRS site and there is lots of information--more than I need for my John Grisham's and Jodi Picoult's. Still plenty of info for those contemplating large donations or a night of restful sleep.

Thanks for all you are doing for AAUW and for women and girls everywhere.



Local Engagement Grants

(LEG-Up)!



AAUW-IL Grants Awarded

The **Elgin AAUW Branch** will use the LEG to defray the cost of exhibits for their centennial celebration at the Elgin History Museum. In February 2020, the Elgin Historical Society will honor AAUW history with a month-long exhibit at the Elgin History Museum, featuring historical documents and photographs from Elgin Branch's own archive and from the Museum's. Mounting and signage for the exhibits will cost \$700 and become a permanent part of the two archives. This is part of a yearlong series of celebratory events focusing on the Elgin Branch's history of promoting social justice and equality for women. The grant amount is \$500.

The **NW Suburban AAUW Branch** will use the LEG to pilot a new program this year entitled Drinks & Dialogue. There will be three events, November, January and April, in local bar/restaurants focusing on young women and economic security. Speakers are already obtained for the first two events. Appetizers will be provided. Advertising includes social media and the Meetup app. The grant amount is \$500.

The **Jane Addams AAUW Branch** will use the LEG to cover the annual cost of GoToMeeting which is being used for online programs via webinar. The grant amount is \$348.

How can your branch apply?

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/>. LEG grants are intended to help branches fund programs that promote and reflect the mission of AAUW. Local Engagement Grant (LEG), 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.

APPLY NOW