



## Annual Reports



empowering women since 1881

## **Mission**

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

## **Vision**

Equity for all.

## **Values**

Non-partisan.

Fact based.

Integrity.

Inclusion and Intersectionality.

# Minutes of the Ninety-Fifth Annual Convention

AAUW-IL, Inc.  
Springfield, IL  
May 3-4, 2019

The AAUW-IL 95th Annual Convention was held May 3 and 4 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois. The national organization was represented by Chief Executive Officer Kim Churches.

Following an announcement that \$2,042 had been raised for the Legal Advocacy Fund in response to Dr. Zoe Spencer's presentation and the announcement of Paula Purdue as the 2019 Agent of Change (in absentia), the Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 1:00PM on May 4, 2019, by President Jennifer Urish. Jennifer announced that the Parliamentarian for the meeting would be Nann Hilyard; the Timekeeper would be Sallie Miller; the Counters would be Carol Heisler and Ruth Holst; and the Secretary would be Sally Vogl.

With no objection, the proposed Convention Rules on page 8 and the Order of Business on page 7 of the convention book were adopted as printed. Jennifer appointed Lisa Cherry, Andi Danis, and Laura Desmarais to serve as Readers of the minutes of the 2019 meeting. The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were printed on page 12 and had been approved by a committee of Readers appointed by the President. Jennifer noted that the President's report appeared on page 5 of the convention book.

She then recognized Sallie Miller, Nominating Committee Chair, who thanked the members of her committee and moved with the approval of the Board the following slate of officers for the years 2019-2021. The Committee's report appeared on page 18.

- President-Elect: Lisa Cherry, District #4
- Co-VPs for Membership: Sally Vogl, District #2, and Nann Hilyard, District #5
- Secretary: Amy Green, District #2

There were no nominations from the floor for any of these positions, and all the nominees were elected unanimously. Current officers' reports were printed in the convention book.

No new business was raised, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Vogl  
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by Lisa Cherry and Andi Danis on May 7, 2019, and by Laura Desmarais on May 8, 2019

# Officer Reports

## President Jennifer Urish

Members:

This is certainly a different report than I expected to write when we left last year's convention. We all know what we've missed out on this year—giant regional convention, in person meetings, monthly programs, and fundraisers that your branch relies upon. I'd like to focus instead on what we've learned this year.

No doubt, you've all participated in a Zoom meeting. This technology allows us to meet remotely, sometimes even in our pajamas. There's a learning curve, but it lets us reach out to our branches. I hope you're using it. If you need some help getting started or perfecting your online meeting, there is information available from the Jane Addams Branch at their website (link below).

The Jane Addams Branch continues to provide remote programming to everyone with great mission-based webinars most months. Invite your branch to attend one live or watch the recorded version whenever you want. The schedule is on their website, Facebook, and in the monthly Connection e-newsletter.

We held the first ever online election of officers. We needed 2% of members for a quorum and 6% voted! We had an online installation ceremony that you can watch on the state website.

Make sure that you're receiving all the communication from the State Board—we're on Facebook and Twitter, we have a website, we send out the Link twice a year, and we send out Connection monthly. Now, more than ever, it's critical to use these resources until we can meet face to face again.

I'd like to thank my board for all their hard work and patience with all the changes—they really keep me sane!

Jennifer Urish, President  
AAUW-IL, Inc.

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| AAUW website:              | <a href="http://www.aauw.org">www.aauw.org</a>   |
| AAUW-IL website:           | <a href="http://www.aauw-il.aauw.net">www.aauw-il.aauw.net</a>                           |
| AAUW-IL on Facebook:       | <a href="http://www.facebook.com/aauw.il">www.facebook.com/aauw.il</a> or search @aauwil |
| AAUW-IL on Twitter:        | @aauwil  |
| Jane Addams Branch website | <a href="http://janeaddams-il.aauw.net">janeaddams-il.aauw.net</a>                       |

## **Membership Vice Presidents Sally Vogl and Nann Hilyard**

As of February 1, 2020, there were 36 AAUW branches in Illinois, with a membership total of 1932, representing a loss of 49 members from the 2019 total. Overall, we had 17 branches that retained at least 100% of their members. Of those branches that gained membership, seven increased by more than 5%.

These branches had a retention rate of at least 100% -- maintaining or increasing their total membership or gaining more members than they lost:

Arlington Heights Area  
Aurora  
Batavia-Geneva-St. Charles  
Carbondale  
Crystal Lake Area  
Downers Grove Area  
Glenview  
Lockport Area  
Morton  
Naperville Area  
Palos-Orland Area  
Pekin Area  
Riverside  
Rockford Area  
Salt Creek Area  
Waukegan Area  
Wheaton-Glen Ellyn

Special congratulations go to the following branches whose increase in membership from 2019 to 2020 was greater than 5%:

Aurora  
Batavia-Geneva-St. Charles  
Carbondale  
Glenview  
Naperville Area  
Riverside  
Rockford Area

Everyone's efforts to keep membership strong are appreciated, especially in these challenging times. As always, we're happy to welcome your new members or encourage prospective ones to join AAUW.

## AAUW-IL, Inc. Financial Statement

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Carolyn Schjelderup, Director of Finance

### INCOME

|                     |    |                     |
|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| Bank Fee Refunded   | \$ | 115.14              |
| State Convention    | \$ | 6,560.00            |
| Fall Conference     | \$ | 1,636.41            |
| Dues Received       | \$ | 19,663.00           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> |    | <b>\$ 27,974.55</b> |

### EXPENSES

|   |    |                     |
|---|----|---------------------|
| 100 President Operating                 | \$ | 4.84                |
| 500 Director of Finance Operating       | \$ | 109.96              |
| 501 Audit                               | \$ | 50.00               |
| 502 Bank Fees                           | \$ | 115.64              |
| 1003 District 3 Operating               | \$ | 217.00              |
| 1200 Public Policy Operating            | \$ | 292.27              |
| 1201 Lobbyist                           | \$ | 7,307.05            |
| 1400 State Insurance                    | \$ | 1,668.00            |
| 1401 Incorporation Expenses             | \$ | 25.00               |
| 1500 State Directory                    | \$ | 24.31               |
| 1503 Communications                     | \$ | 336.60              |
| 1504 State Publications                 | \$ | 708.29              |
| 1601 Local Engagement Grants            | \$ | 1,098.00            |
| 1602 StartSmart Grants                  | \$ | 1,100.00            |
| 1700 Summer Board Meeting General       | \$ | 522.03              |
| 1701 Summer Board Meeting Travel        | \$ | 1,193.50            |
| 1702 Summer Board Lodging               | \$ | 843.66              |
| 1800 Fall District Conference General   | \$ | 1,932.15            |
| 1801 Fall District Conference Travel    | \$ | 56.00               |
| 1803 Fall District Conference Speaker   | \$ | 200.00              |
| 1900 Winter Board Meeting General       | \$ | 46.66               |
| 1901 Winter Board Meeting Travel        | \$ | 1,048.00            |
| 2000 State Convention General           | \$ | 10,177.07           |
| 2001 State Convention Travel            | \$ | 1,910.50            |
| 2002 State Convention Lodging           | \$ | 1,077.00            |
| 2003 State Convention Speakers Expenses | \$ | 65.00               |
| 2004 State Convention Speaker Fees      | \$ | 200.00              |
| 2005 Awards                             | \$ | 71.11               |
| 2200 Other Approved Travel              | \$ | 687.00              |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                   |    | <b>\$ 33,086.64</b> |

**NET INCOME/(LOSS)** **\$ (5,112.09)**

**AAUW-IL, Inc.**  
**Balance Sheet June 30, 2019**  
**Carolyn Schjelderup**  
**Director of Finance**

**ASSETS**

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Regions Bank Checking Account | \$ 13,768.41        |
| Vanguard Investment Account   | \$ 82,124.65        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>           | <b>\$ 95,893.06</b> |

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** \$ -

**TOTAL EQUITY** \$ 95,893.06

**Report of the Nominating Committee**  
**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.

**Co-Program Vice Presidents** Sharon Lee, Decatur branch (District 2)  
Becky Glimco, Naperville Area branch (District 4)

**Finance-Elect** Carolyn Schjelderup, Rock Island-Moline branch (District 3)

**AAUW Funds** Laura Desmarais, Wheaton-Glen Ellyn branch (District 4)

**Bylaw/Policy** Andi Danis, Aurora Area branch (District 4)

**Nominating Chair** Jennifer Urish, Belleville branch (District 1)

**AAUW Funds**  
**Carol Heisler, Director**

**TOP TEN BRANCHES—TOTAL GIVING**  
**(figures from 12/31/2019 for donations and 2/1/2020 membership report)**

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Lombard Area       | \$13,532.00 |
| Wheaton/Glen Ellyn | \$11,737.92 |
| Elmhurst Area      | \$11,562.00 |
| Rock Island/Moline | \$11,205.00 |
| Springfield        | \$10,997.88 |
| Naperville Area    | \$11,124.00 |
| Deerfield Area     | \$ 9,966.05 |
| Palos-Orland Area  | \$7,090.00  |
| Lockport Area      | \$6,467.00  |
| Downers Grove Area | \$5,631.16  |

**TOP TEN BRANCHES—PER CAPITA GIVING**

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Lombard Area       | \$250.59 |
| Lockport Area      | \$231.51 |
| Rock Island/Moline | \$233.43 |
| Deerfield Area     | \$160.74 |
| Elmhurst Area      | \$139.30 |
| Schaumburg         | \$127.89 |
| Naperville Area    | \$115.04 |
| Palos Orland       | \$112.53 |
| Crystal Lake Area  | \$86.30  |
| Wheaton/Glen Ellyn | \$85.67  |



## AAUW-IL Funds Donations

Members and friends of AAUW-IL contributed \$141,131.02 to AAUW Funds in calendar year 2019. Thanks to all the dedicated donors!

*Each year branches can designate donations of \$500 in honor or memory of a member or friend of AAUW. These are this year's named donations.*

| <b>Branch</b>      | <b>Honored</b>                                 |
|--------------------|--|
| Alton Wood River   | Donnie Calvin, Jo Ann Hall & Patricia Penelton |
| Lockport Area      | Georgia Alberico & Gail Mitchell               |
| Lombard Area       | Barb Kozi, Lois Hockman & Olive Langlois       |
| Quincy             | Mary Oatman                                    |
| Riverside          | Kathleen Lipinski                              |
| Rock Island/Moline | Sylvia Martin                                  |
| Schaumburg Area    | Barbara Olson & Angela Sharkey                 |

### **College/University Relations** **Ruth Holst, 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. (As of this date, the Spring 2020 conference has not been canceled)

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.

## District Director Reports

### District 1, Jane Bonaldi, Director

The **Jersey-Calhoun Counties branch** was founded in 1979 by Penny Jean Parish who died April 19, 2019 at the age of 72. Survived by her husband and children as well as her AAUW sisters in District 1. Her loss as well as medical issues of other members has found our two-county branch transitioning to a new reality. Our branch's primary focus has been support of the Oasis Women's Shelter in Alton, appropriate because as a young woman Penny worked at the Hull House as an executive secretary and was steeped in the mission of AAUW. We are excited about AAUW's emergence as a compassionate and benevolent entity as well as a constant in women's rights.

### Alton-Wood River

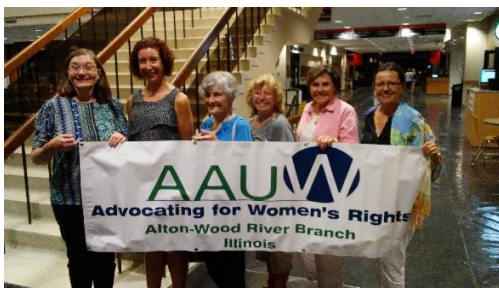
Our annual Christmas Brunch was very successful again, with members bringing several guests and providing a significant amount of silent auction money to be donated to AAUW Funds in honor of three of our past members: Patricia Penelton, Donnie Calvin, and JoAnn Hall.

Several of our members have also stepped up to chair positions, that have opened in the past year, such as Scholarship, Hospitality, Funds Committee, Diversity, Treasurer, and Communications.

We are incredibly pleased that two of our members achieved life membership in AAUW and were celebrated with certificates: Margaret Powell, Joyce Tappy and Suzanne Lagomarcino,

Our regular business meetings have always included presentations and topics with light snacks. Our most recent "Dinner and a Movie" night was provided by our Secretary, Kelly Orban who led us in discussions on the key elements of the movie "Grannie's Got Game," and the impact of an era, prior to Title IX, when there were limited sports opportunities for women.

Members, like Kelly, continue to keep our branch aware of topics ranging from women's equity issues to community outreach programs and events that focus attention on the marginalizing of women. SIUE conducted a forum on women's safety and sexual harassment. In attendance and participating in the discussions were IL Senator Rachell Crowe, with IL Representatives Katie Stewart, and Monica Bristow. Branch members who were present that evening, were delighted to see the room well attended by both male and female students.

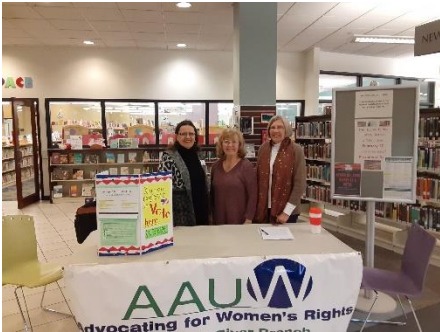


Several individual branch members have given their time this past year, to volunteer at women's shelters in their own community, provide voter registration opportunities at colleges and libraries, encourage community response to the 2020 Census, work in food banks, attend diversity training programs, and attend meetings of women's diversity groups.

Each year, our branch members attend the annual Women's History Coalition Breakfast at the Best Western Premiere in Alton. Jennifer Poltisch reports to our branch on the program and is our member on that Board.

As always, we stay committed to our Scholarship Fund, and in this past year, awarded a one-year AAUW Alton-Wood River membership to our most recent Scholarship recipient.

It is also with sadness that we experienced the loss of six members of our combined Alton-Wood River branch in the past year and a half. Their leadership, dedication and energy on behalf of women's causes will be forever treasured in our hearts and minds.



*Voter Registration at Hayner Library in Alton*

The **Carbondale Branch** had another very productive year in spite of the fact that we had to transition to virtual meetings after our March meeting. Two of our highlight programs were: Our African American History program in February, where our speaker was a world traveled professor of art and our special guests were 25 members of an afterschool reading program and our March Women's history program which we provided collaboratively with other women's groups on campus-our invited speaker was the State Comptroller, Susana Mendoza. In our first Zoom meeting, we finalized our four scholarship awards: one community college transfer student, one non-traditional student, and two students enrolled in professional schools. Regrettably, the conditions of "shelter in place" caused us to forego our annual middle school art competition. Our final board meeting of the year will be another Zoom meeting.

Activities for the **Belleville Branch** 2019-20 included an overview of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair; a memoir-writing session; Books for CASA kids, in which members donated children's books to the local center for abused and neglected children; and an overview of the Teen Court program in St. Clair County, by which first-time teen offenders are judged and sentenced by their peers. Plans for this year included a movie-night fundraiser for the Belleville Branch SWIC scholarship and LAF funds and a spring visit to the Missouri Botanical Garden. Those activities were postponed due to COVID-19. We're looking forward to rescheduling them this coming year.

## **District 2, Alice Huebner, Director**

Spring is generally a busy time for the **Springfield Branch**, with business, social, and fundraising events provided for members, including a night at the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, a Diversity/International Event, a Public Policy Event (this year featuring a distinguished panel speaking on the 2020 census), a Traditional Afternoon Tea, a Work Smart workshop, and a Spring Brunch. Although events from March forward were cancelled due to the Governor's shelter-in-place order, the Diversity/International Event was held on February 11, 2020. We are planning our Spring Brunch/annual meeting to be held in an alternative format, probably a Zoom meeting.

The Diversity/International Event and Branch meeting attracted 20 people including a prospective member and was planned by Branch Diversity/International Relations Chair Pamela King. It featured a presentation by Veronica Espina, Founder, Co-Chair and Board President of the Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network (SIAN). Ms. Espina, a journalist and a graduate of the Universidad Catolica de Chile, relocated with her 5-year-old daughter to Springfield, where she formed SIAN--the only NGO that advocates for immigrants in the State Capitol. Ms. Espina's presentation provided background information about immigrants in Illinois, who number nearly 2 million, one-half of whom are naturalized. Sixty-eight percent of Illinois immigrants have been in the country twenty years. 250,000 immigrants in the State live without official document status. SIAN is seeking support for Springfield to adopt a Welcoming City Resolution, which is a positive affirmation of immigrants in our community as they bring a valuable range of contributions, talents, entrepreneurship, labor, and service to Springfield.

While the shelter-in-place policy is in place, the Springfield Branch is striving to remain active through Zoom meetings of some interest groups and by encouraging members to participate in Work Smart programs online and a silent fundraiser as an opportunity of giving.

The **Quincy branch** of AAUW had a carry in Christmas dinner at one of the member's home with spouses and prospective members invited. It was decided instead of bringing white elephant gifts; each would make or buy a winter scarf to be given away at the Horizon Soup Kitchen here in Quincy. We had 44 winter scarves in a variety of colors displayed on a table so those who wanted could take one. They were very happy to receive a warm scarf and I think next year we will do gloves. We had 6 scarves left and they were given to the Ladies of Charity to disperse.

Our January meeting was cancelled due to weather, we had a meeting in February and March and due to Covid-19 the April and May meetings have been cancelled. We had our spring money maker ready to advertise for May 30<sup>th</sup> but that has been postponed until October. We are going to have a sing along Sound of Music night. We are encouraging dressing in costume as one of the multitudes of characters from the movie with a costume parade and ribbons awarded for all types of categories plus a photo booth. A German themed dinner will be served, cash bar, hot pretzels all in a renovated movie theater with a full screen, stage and sound. Hopefully this can be a yearly fund raiser with a different movie each year.

The **Champaign-Urbana branch** had a busy fall beginning with a Welcome Social in September to welcome new and returning members to a new membership year. In November we honored our four AAUW 50- Year Members at a special luncheon and held our first program luncheon. The program was presented by a past AAUW International Fellowship recipient who spoke on her work over three decades with women in Botswana. Her fascinating talk was entitled, "Are Botswana Women Feminists?". Attending that luncheon were two of the current AAUW Fellowship recipients at UIUC and all three of our local branch scholarship recipients from Parkland Community College.

This spring we held two additional program luncheons, with NCCWSL and Title IX as the program focuses. We funded a full scholarship for a UIUC student to attend NCCWSL and again co-sponsored the Women's Career Institute at UIUC, a workshop promoting career development for women students. We also endorsed an application for an AAUW Community Action Grant written by Parkland Community College. It asked for funding of a summer program promoting STEM for girls ages 12-15. If funded, branch members will participate. Also, each month members can participate in any of our four interest groups—book discussion, drama, timely topics discussion, and Great Decisions public policy discussion.

The **Decatur-IL Branch** contributes to AAUW Funds and provides local scholarships at Millikin University and Richland Community College. Our focus has been on “equal pay for equal work” and women's equal representation in making the decisions and laws that affect their lives. The branch opened the year with a fall potluck, welcomed old and new members, invited guests and our three scholarship recipients. The branch celebrated the holidays with a luncheon, and member SuEllen Brauer, a director on DOVE's board, presented an update on the agency's programs and advocacy for domestic violence victims and homeless families.

We held our popular International Luncheon at Millikin. Student Guests were Lan Dau, a computer science major from Vietnam; and Nazish Waheed, a biology pre-med major from Pakistan. These young women sent a hopeful message – they may be leaders and agents of change. COVID-19 and bad timing put the kibosh on the following March meetings. March Women's History Month programs at Millikin were cancelled as well the “Point-In-Time” the annual count of the homeless, that a sociology professor, her research students, and volunteers conduct in Macon County to provide information for social services needs of the area homeless. The branch also missed our “Spring Luncheon”, our annual business meeting.

### **District 3, Judy Griffin, Director**

In August, the **Monmouth Area Branch** kicked off the year with a potluck hosted by one of our co-vice presidents for membership. Everyone always looks forward to this event. Not only is it fun to catch up with one another but it is an opportunity to meet prospective members. Since recruiting new members has been a goal, the branch planned a women's history trivia night at a local wine shop in October. Although attendance was low, those who did participate liked the concept. We hope to include more interactive programs in the future. Our program on the census attracted more attention. We collaborated with the Warren County Public Library to host Gayle Keiser, a former assistant professor of political science and a recruiting assistant with the 2020 Census Team.

Our branch continues to make a concerted effort to raise awareness within our community, particularly among the student population. We held two voter registrations drives on the Monmouth College campus and formed a new relationship with the Student Government Association. We look forward to working with them again in the future.

The pandemic has forced us to suspend our planned activities, but we are exploring ways to meet virtually. Our book group is considering resuming discussions via Zoom, and one of our members has invited the rest of the branch to a Facebook watch party for a documentary on Carrie Chapman Catt.

## **Peoria Branch**

Our most interesting and timely program this year was presented by Monica Scheuer, Executive Director of the Midwest Food Bank. She shared the mission and operation of the organization which gathers and distributes food donations without cost to recipients. The Bank helps feed people in 317 programs in cooperation with area food banks. They also partner with the Salvation Army on disaster relief and package nutritious rice and bean meals which are sent overseas. The Bank relies heavily on volunteers to help meet food scarcity.

The second program which had to be cancelled was on CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children.) We hope to reschedule this program for next year.

Both programs have an impact on young people's development. Our branch feels this is important information in nurturing confident young women to become future leaders.

The **Ottawa branch** is small but mighty!! In 2019 we held our annual book sale and raised over \$4,000. Therefore, this year we were able to award four, \$1,000 college scholarships to local girls. In past years, depending on the book sale profits, we awarded 2 or 3 scholarships. So, we were very proud to be able to do 4 this year. Our community is very supportive of our book sale. They donate books, volunteer to work at the sale and obviously buy books at the sale!!

Also community/local organizations and businesses donate time and materials to our book sale. Without their help, our profits would drop and thus our scholarships drop also. Hopefully we will be able to hold our sale this summer and continue this valuable work!!

The AAUW **Rock Island-Moline Branch** is participating in the Five Star Recognition Program and has received 2 stars so far. The first star was for Advancement and the second star for Programs. Our programs included **Financial Challenges for Women** presented by Mary Ann Brown, Attorney and Partner with Nash, Bean, Ford and Brown; **The Gender Pay Gap** presented through the Gender Equity Fund by Lisa Cherry, President-Elect for AAUW-IL, Inc.; **Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership** presented through the Gender Equity Fund by Andi Danis, Past President of AAUW-IL, Inc.; and **Equity in Educational Opportunities** presented by Dr. Monica Smith, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of Augustana College.

The AAUW Rock Island-Moline Branch hosted a Holiday Reciprocity Brunch with the AAUW Davenport-Bettendorf Branch of Iowa. These two branches were at one time a combined branch that separated when national reorganized branches by state. Since then it has been our practice to alternately host a December Reciprocity Brunch for both branches to continue that historical connection.

The AAUW Rock Island-Moline Branch is pleased to provide STEM scholarships to female students attending St. Ambrose University, studying in stem majors. We sponsored two STEM scholarships in the fall of 2019; one for \$670 and one for \$500. We are hoping to award more STEM scholarships in the fall of 2020.

Finally, we are proud to have two of our members serving at the state level. Sylvia Martin serves on the AAUW-IL Nominating Committee and Carolyn Schjelderup is serving as Director of Finance, AAUW-IL.

The **Morton AAUW branch** continues to advocate for equal rights for women and girls. Our members choose to commit their time, resources and voices to advance this mission.

In May of 2019 the Morton branch provided their annual \$1000 scholarship to Stephanie Clark to assist her obtaining an advanced degree. Then in January 2020, Stephanie returned as the program speaker to share her experience as a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner). The Morton branch hosted several other mission-based programs. During the past fiscal year our members have learned about women's lives Qatar, the growth and expansion of nursing education, arts programs for disadvantaged youth, the lives of pioneer women and the moxie it takes to write a book.

The Morton branch has become mainstay for local girls in 4-7th grades with our ongoing monthly GEMS programs. In collaboration with professionals and organizations, we deliver exciting STEM centered activities and lessons. Our GEMS committee also provides scholarships for these young women to attend other STEM programs/camps in our region.

As the pandemic brought most of the world to a standstill, the Morton AAUW branch continues its meetings and programs using Zoom. We cherish our friendships and common bonds.

### **Pekin Branch**

Our fundraisers are book sale at Marigold Festival and Style Show. At this past year's book sale we were able to raise over \$2,000. Our Style Show has been postponed indefinitely.

Our members have balked at the idea of meeting on zoom. Safety concerns. We are moving forward anyway.

Our monthly meetings have been quite educational as we have learned more about CBD, Electoral College, and CPR to name just a few. We normally pay a stipend, but each presenter has returned said stipend.

One of our 50-year members died this past winter. Change always occurs but the impact that some play on our organization is so important. We have big shoes to fill.

### **District 4, Donna Jean Simon, Director**

In September 2019 the **Aurora Area Branch** celebrated its 100th anniversary. We held a luncheon at the Aurora Country Club, and we received a proclamation from the City of Aurora. This photo was at city council meeting with the Mayor of Aurora. The fall was a busy time for our branch with the 100th anniversary celebrations so we decided to hold a Virtual Fundraiser. Invitations were sent with a tea bag and asked members enjoy a cup of tea at home and write a check to AAUW. We raised \$1085.



The **Batavia-Geneva-St Charles** IL Branch has a total of 70 members. In the past year, we added 9 new members to our branch. We also created a Membership Growth Committee to find ways to support our current members and attract new ones. Our efforts have included:

- Revising our website to be more user-friendly
- Finding ways to increase use of social media
- Creating a brochure for our branch
- Surveying membership about their AAUW experience
- Finding ways to support new members, including targeted gatherings in cafes.
- Supporting Work Smart training & outreach
- Learning from other branches
- Revising our business card
- Finding ways to put our name forward at community events

Our branch recently earned a Gold Star for Advancement in the Five Star Recognition Program because we shifted the focus of our branch giving from fellowships and grants/LAF to the greatest needs fund. We also retained 90% or more of our branch membership.

We sponsored our 41<sup>st</sup> Creative Writing Contest for middle school students. Students submitted entries in the categories of Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Poetry. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Award Ceremony, but all the student winners were thrilled to receive their medals and certificates. Our member, Irina Shulman, who is trained in the AAUW Work Smart program, partnered with a professor from North Central University to offer a webinar for students on careers, salary negotiation, and leadership.

As a response to the many challenges in the world, our branch launched a committee called AAUW Connections. Started by former President, Rosie McVay, AAUW Connections explores how we can open minds and find ways to reach across the divide in our community. Our intent is to break down barriers, find common ground with individuals and groups, and design a model of how to connect women and people from different cultures to promote both personal development and build a stronger community. The accompanying picture was taken at one of our Roundtable discussions.

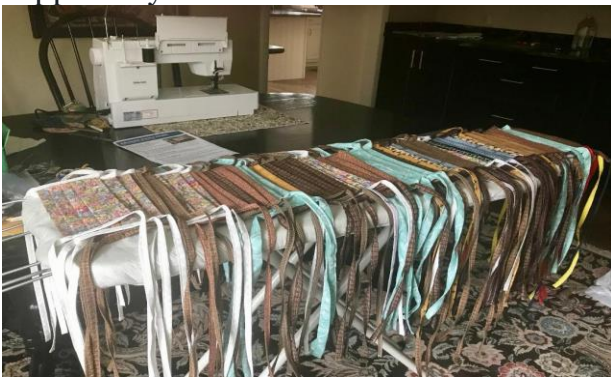


Two of our members, Irina Shulman and Bonnie Gillespie, who are trained Yogis, offered two Yoga events to members and the community, one on Laughter Yoga and the other on Chakras. All donations were used to fund the efforts of our Connections Committee.





In response to the current Covid-19 crisis and need to protective gear, our members sewed 64 face masks which were delivered to Advocate Aurora Health. The team included: Rosie McVay who coordinated the effort, Nancy Hollmeier, Pat Hendrix, Maryrose Biallas, Sally Griffin. The fabric was supplied by our seamstresses and Valerie Anderson.



**Chicago Inc. Branch** celebrated its 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019. President Ruth Holst presented a brief description of the activities of the founding members at the Fall Northern Conference. In October, members participated in a docent-led tour of the Historic Second Presbyterian Church on Michigan Ave. The November meeting provided members with an opportunity to meet three AAUW fellows and grantees: Loretta Agyemang, Elizabeth Hopwood and Faramalala Ravaoarimanga. December's meeting was a social gathering for members to learn about the new Five Star Program and to discuss the future of the Branch over a holiday lunch. In February, we invited Advanced TV Herstory podcaster Cynthia Abrams Bemis to present a program on TV's stereotype of African American women from *Belluuh* to *Gimme a Break!*

The final program held in March before the CoVid-19 "Stay at home" order was announced was a collaboration with Working Women's History Project and the Vivian G. Harsh Society. Entitled "Recognition Delayed: The Contributions of African American Suffragists and Why Their Stories Matter," this a highly successful program was held at the Daley Library of the University of Illinois at Chicago and featured Marcia Walker-McWilliams' lecture about the subject, along with a panel of four experts representing the League of Women Voters, the Residents Association of Greater Englewood, the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Ida's Legacy. A new project was launched in 2019 to honor Suffragists during the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1920 Women's Suffrage amendment. Branch members have begun collecting information about Illinois Suffragists to recognize their gravesites on election day in 2020. To date, the Chicago Branch is proud to say we have been awarded 2 stars from AAUW in the new Five Star program; one for Communications/External Relations and one for Advancement.

## Highlights of AAUW year, **Downers Grove Area Branch**, July 1, 2019-May 2020

A giant, fake cake that said, “DG Area AAUW 70th Anniversary,” was part of the town’s 4th of July Parade, pushed along on a cart by members, some of whom carried our branch banner as they marched. In August, a proclamation was read by the village mayor declaring the week of August 18-24 as AAUW Downers Grove week. That month also saw a good turnout of members and guests enjoying High Tea at the branch’s 70th anniversary celebration, which featured our original AAUW song, a slide show, branch scrapbooks on display, speeches, and a timeline of the branch’s history. This was followed by a front-page article and photo from the tea in the local newspaper.

Our membership held steady at around 108, and our programs included a discussion of LGBTQ designations with a speaker from the Chicago Children’s Museum, Judy Chicago’s Dinner Party, a PriMerry Players read-‘n-actment of “Stirring Stories of Women in Stem,” and a Benedictine University student who had participated in last year’s NCCWSL conference. Each general meeting also included a segment on our branch history. Interest groups thrived, but Equal Pay Day events and our Annual Used Book Sale had to be cancelled. Members learned to hold meetings via Zoom, and a phone tree was put in place to check on the well-being of our members during the COVID-19 pandemic. In short, our branch members continue to be hard-working, supportive of each other, and united in our efforts to empower women no matter what obstacles and challenges we face.



The **Elmhurst Area Branch** had a year of interesting and inspiring programs beginning in October, with an overview of **DuPage PADS**, where we also collected items most in need by PADS. At our November meeting, we learned about Madeline Albright during a **Read my Pins** program by Marti Tracy. In January, we had a timely program researched and presented by various branch members reviewing the **2020 Presidential Candidates** and their positions related to AAUW key issues. At February’s program, we learned about **Solving Climate Change** from Mike Zanillo, and in March we were inspired by **Jane Addams and Hull House** with a portrayal by Betsey Means. April and May activities were cancelled in keeping with the stay at home order. In addition to our regular programming, we started the summer with our most successful Used Book Sale ever, raising funds for local scholarships and AAUW National. Finally, we had a special service project in October led by our Half the Sky special interest group. We went to a sewing center in Geneva and worked with volunteers from **Days for Girls**, to make reusable menstrual pad kits which are distributed in foreign areas where young women are otherwise unable to attend school while they have their periods.

A highlight of this year for the **Lockport Branch** has been a dulcimer concert performed last October in a local Church. Historic slides depicting the women's suffrage movement were screened during the concert which was attended by our members, our mayor and city officials as well as law enforcement officers and fire fighters.

We also supported the AAUW 5 Star Program. and emphasized programs that align with the Strategic Plan (Education and Training, Economic Security, Leadership and Governance). We joined with the League of Women Voters to host a "College Safety Fair". The Public Policy chair makes a report at each meeting. Two members attended the Regional Fall Conference.

We have an active Book Club which meets monthly at members' homes.

Despite the unusual circumstances we all experienced in 2020, the **Naperville Area** branch had a remarkably successful 2019-2020 year.

- We launched the program year with our annual September Potluck which seemed like the most well attended potluck ever. The enthusiasm for AAUW policies, programs and goals was clearly visible. Community programs through March included: The Refuge Journey; Women Entrepreneurs: Success and Challenges; A PEP-Talk: Pesticides, Energy and Plastics and their link to our health; and Moving Up: LinkedIn Tips for Women Job Seekers.
- Our membership numbers increased.
- We were able to increase our donations to AAUW focusing solely on the Greatest Needs Fund.
- Thanks to the generosity of a member who made a donation in memory of his mother, we were pleased to award two \$5,000 scholarships to help non-traditional women students earn college degrees.
- We supported two Great Decisions sessions, one held in members' homes and one co-sponsored with the Naperville Public Library at the library. We have supported Great Decisions for over 40 years.
- We received a Star for Communications & External Relations in the Five Star Recognition Program.

I-ACT. This year we increased the visibility of our political action initiatives by appointing two members to be Public Policy co-chairs and creating an Issues Action Team (I-ACT). We surveyed members to help determine which of many AAUW policy issues we should focus our actions on. Our priorities for 2019-2021 are: Education and Funding; Pay Equity; Healthcare Access; and Freedom from Violence. The team provided our members with information and actions to take on these priorities at our monthly events, on social media, and in our newsletter. They were instrumental in recruiting 22 members to sign-up for AAUW's Two-Minute Activist. Participation in the Springfield Lobby Day and other plans for in-person lobbying were put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Moving Online. With the cancelation of our face-to-face meetings and events from March through June, we quickly adapted to Zoom virtual meetings. We are holding board and team meetings, book discussion groups, and Wine & Whine get-togethers online. We have postponed our Spring Awards luncheon until the end of August, when we hope to honor our community Woman of the Year designee. Our annual June used book sale has been cancelled and we are implementing a virtual fundraiser in order to continue our philanthropic and policy work. On #GivingTuesdayNow (May 5), we raised about 20% of our goal so we are off to a good start.

The **Salt Creek Area Branch** has two very active book groups. One is an evening and the other a daytime. They meet monthly. We, also, have a Gourmet Group that meets three times a year to try new or unique restaurants.

We started our programs out with a program on LGBTQ - How to be more friendly. In February our play outing was again tied back into LGBTQ. We saw a wonderful production of The Cake. Right before the shutdown we had an excellent speaker in cooperation with the local library on Alice Paul for the 100-year anniversary of the Suffragettes. We have collected books for women in jail to read on tape to their children. We also give a local scholarship to a woman returning to school to get her degree.

The **Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch**'s year began with Terra Costa Howard, one of our state representatives, speaking about women in leadership and what it was like to be a woman representative. In October, we held Round Table discussions on where to focus our efforts and looked at our role in AAUW. We discussed our mission initiatives and addressed financial concerns about how to support those mission efforts. In November, we celebrated Native American month with a program conducted by Pam Silas, associate director of community outreach and engagement, Center for Native American and Indigenous Research at Northwestern University, who led us in a community circle, to discuss ways in which women have led and can heal their communities. In December, we held our annual Holiday Banquet, and Naeema Torres, MFA, a 2018 Community Fund grant recipient, returned to show us her award-winning film, based on her research into a slave uprising in Louisiana, in the 1800s.

In February, we celebrated Black History and Women's History month, with a presentation by Kidada Robinson, from Aurora University, on Hidden Figures, women in history. In March, Dr. Silvia Alvarez-Clare, Tree Conservation Ecologist, in the Global Tree Conservation Program at Morton Arboretum, spoke about women and STEM.

We had planned to focus our efforts in the spring on LunaFest and our annual Book Sale, but unfortunately, the events of our unusual year curtailed those plans. We intend to hold our Book Sale in the fall and have rescheduled LunaFest.

We are proud to have earned several stars in the Five Star program and continue our efforts to complete that program.

### **District 5, Jo-An Sabonjian, Director**

We are happy to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Elgin Area Branch in 2020! The branch had a robust schedule of events to celebrate this milestone but have had to cancel or postpone them. Though COVID-19 took a toll on many of the in-person programs for the year, the branches of District 5 (Arlington Heights, Deerfield, Crystal Lake, Elgin, Glenview, Northwest Suburban, Rockford, Waukegan) continued on with Zoom book groups, board meetings, and some participated in programs. Branches that produce newsletters continued to do so and kept in touch. We've all made adjustments in how we connect. Waukegan had drive-by birthday parades for members and GOGO (Give One Get One) book swaps, by socially distanced appointments, in a member's driveway.

In August 2019, presidents from District 5, and some from District 4 gathered in Rockford for a productive meet and greet. Our northern fall conference, held with District 4, featured Kendra Davis, AAUW Senior Vice President, Advancement and Partnerships as keynote speaker. Most branches did get a couple of programs or holiday events under their belts before the stay-at-home order took effect. The Schaumburg Branch had a special one-time scholarship in the memory of Barb Olson, a past branch president and public policy chair, who passed away in 2019. Although the annual AAUW fellows luncheon the Deerfield branch hosts at the Lambs Farm with the was canceled, we did have our annual district networking luncheon, featuring estate planner Jody Segalla, on a snowy day in January. The year 2020 should have an asterisk next to it, denoting its unusual nature!

**Crystal Lake** began the year with our “Welcome Back Potluck” in September which is always well attended. In October we joined with the League of Women Voters and McHenry County College in sponsoring Annette Baldwin in “The Long Road to Victory”, a portrayal of the five early leaders in the women’s suffrage movement. We continued that theme in November when we participated in the first annual Crystal Lake Christmas Tree Walk. We are proud to say that following 60+ mile per hour winds our “Millie The Suffragist” was the only tree still standing. Women Power! In February we enjoyed a private tour of the new Liebman Science Center and Planetarium at MCC. The talents of our own members were on display in March with our Women in Art program. And several of our members worked throughout the year with Bookfriends International making menstrual hygiene kits for African girls. These allow the girls to remain in school.

And then came COVID-19. We have gotten really good at social distancing and are getting better at Zoom. And we are all hoping for in person contact with our AAUW family soon!

The **Rockford Area Branch** enjoyed their 90th Branch Birthday in September. We wrote an article about each decade from January to November for the Rockford Register Star and compiled these articles into a commemorative booklet.

In October, we sponsored a Women's History Tour to New York and Massachusetts. Each stop focused on the 2020 Suffrage Centennial or a famous female author. We learned a lot about the lives of the suffragists!

In 2020, we participated in a citywide coalition of women's groups planning a celebration for August 18, 2020. We were able to hold some of the educational programming but postponed others until the fall. We are involved in a community build sculpture project honoring local suffragists and civil rights activists.

We have learned to use Zoom for meetings including the annual meeting and to be flexible when planning all events. We will stay strong and keep the AAUW mission in our minds for the coming year.



## **Public Policy**

**Susan Scott and Tracey Sherman-Falcon, Co-Directors**

Because of the stay at home order in the state and nationally, there was not much public policy activity. You can find the Public Policy Priorities here <https://www.aauw.org/resource/principles-and-priorities/>

## **Bylaws/Policy**

**Barbara Simon, Chair**

There were no mandated changes from AAUW National this past year.

As per the AAUW-IL Policy Book, each branch should have complete and current bylaws on file with the Bylaws Chair.

**Memorial Report  
2018-2019**

**BRANCH/MEMBER**

**DATE**

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA BRANCH

Betty Cook  
Elaine Giermak

May 12, 2019  
April 20, 2020

CHICAGO, INC BRANCH

Karen Antine  
Henriette Simon

April 1, 2019  
April 8, 2020

CRYSTAL LAKE AREA BRANCH

Judith Thornton\*\* and \*\*\*

February 29, 2020

DECATUR BRANCH

Julia Bright\*\*

November 1, 2019

DOWNERS GROVE AREA BRANCH

Helen Myers

February 15, 2020

ELGIN AREA BRANCH

Wilma Jean Booth\*\* and \*\*\*  
Medina Gross\*\*\*

April 10, 2020  
April 4, 2020

ELMHURST AREA BRANCH

Dorothy Valintis\*\*\*

April 30, 2019

JERSEY-CALHOUN COUNTIES BRANCH

Penny Parish\*\*\*\*

April 19, 2019

LOMBARD AREA BRANCH

Barb Kozi\*\*\*  
Louise Barnes\*\*

September 29, 2019  
May 11, 2020

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN BRANCH

Anne Evans\*\*

April 7, 2019

OTTAWA BRANCH

Helen Thomas\* and \*\*\*

March 26, 2020

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Joan Shurtleff

March 7, 2020

ROCK ISLAND-MOLINE BRANCH

Barbara Fackel  
Mary Allis Snowden

August 22, 2019  
November 11, 2019

SCHAUMBURG AREA BRANCH

Barb Olson\*\*\*

December 11, 2019

Angie Sharkey

March 16, 2020

SPRINGFIELD BRANCH

Lois Strom\*\*\* and \*\*\*\*\*

January 25, 2020

Clarice R. Ford

April 19, 2020

Judith Curtis\*\*

April 23, 2020

WAUKEGAN BRANCH

Mary "Bunny" Foley\*\*

April 20, 2019

Betty Kalo

January 20, 2020

WHEATON-GLEN ELLYN BRANCH

Elaine Nissen

March 17, 2020

Gail Davis

May 5, 2020

Allene Harding

May 30, 2020

\* AAUW Life Member \*\* 50-Year Honorary Life Member \*\*\* Past or Current President \*\*\*\*\* Charter Member \*\*\*\*\*State President