Amy Jo (AJ) Conroy of the Chicago, Inc. Branch was honored as our AAUW-IL 2020 Agent of Change recipient. Normally, this would have been announced at our State Convention.

AJ has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the AAUW mission in a variety of ways over the past few years. She serves as the Public Policy officer of her branch and has made a significant impact on public policy issues in both the city of Chicago and the state of Illinois. Specifically, she has:

* Planned and implemented the showing of the “Equal Means Equal” documentary for the August 2016 launch in Chicago, including securing a viewing location and spearheading the fund-raising campaign to subsidize it – More than 100 women attended
* Provided sustained support for ratification of the ERA in Illinois over a period of years, including important database analysis, a Letter to the Editor in the *Chicago Tribune* (September 2016) and another in the *Chicago Sun Times* (September 2018)
* Spearheaded the effort to produce an ERA Coloring Book for 6-8th graders (2018)
* Coordinated a series of WorkSmart workshops in conjunction with LUNA and various hosting organizations such as the YWCA (2017-2018)
* Actively promoted a resolution to rename a portion of Chicago’s Congress Parkway to commemorate anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells (Spring-Summer 2018)
* Served on the organizing committee for the Chicago’s Equal Pay Day Rally (multiple years)
* Consistently applied pressure on the Chicago Public School System to enhance their Title IX resources in light of the sexual harassment crisis made public by the Chicago Tribune (2018-2019)
* Hosted a table at the Young Feminist Conference “Cause the Effect Chicago” (Nov 2019) attended by more than 300 high school and college girls
* Organized multiple Edit-a-thons to promote the inclusion of Illinois women in Wikipedia (2019)

AJ proudly displays her AAUW membership button wherever she goes. For many of the activities mentioned above, she was the AAUW representative on coordinated efforts among multiple women’s organizations. When the League of Women Voters sponsored a mayoral debate in Spring 2019, AJ made sure that AAUW was one of the organizations that got to submit one of the coveted questions for the debate. The series of WorkSmart events held in Chicago gave AAUW a big publicity boost in the community. AJ represents the future of AAUW. Her enthusiasm for advocating for gender equality is unparalleled and she never hesitates to take action when it’s needed. Congratulations, AJ!