

Jo-An Sabonjian's Notes from DEI Breakout at AAUW-IL Fall Conference 10/30/2021

We were fortunate to have Deanie Brown, the keynote speaker, join our group.

Results from the survey sent to DEI Chairs and Branch Presidents were shared. 15 responses from 35 branches. At that time there were no responses from branches south of the Morton/Pekin area. Not sure if the results reflected the status of most branches or if the lack of responses from the other branches was an indicator that DEI is not on their radar.

Shared the proposed national DEI webinar schedule.

Other points were including DEI in our board policies, looking for opportunities to partner with other organizations, asking branch leaders to include DEI in programs and book group selections. There can be overlap with public policy issues.

There was short/limited discussion of meeting partners/allies "where they are" by having AAUW liaisons to their organizations and is AAUW membership the goal of DEI?

We decided that we will have a statewide group read of the book *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. (In subsequent messaging with Deanie Brown, we will likely have a statewide discussion in April 2022, likely facilitated by Deanie.)

Deanie will keep us informed about the Springfield Branch's "Let's Talk About R.A.C.E. (Raising Awareness for Change and Equity) series.

We plan to have a DEI chairs Zoom by mid-November.

(I will also compile additional information from the surveys that may be helpful.)