



# ILLINOIS LINK

American Association of University Women – Illinois, Inc.  
Spring, 2022 – Number 313

## State Convention Edition

### Message from the President Lisa Cherry



It wasn't hard for the Convention Committee to assign a theme for this year's gathering. After so much isolation we all wanted to exclaim the joy we felt at being able to meet again in person! We have heard from so many of you who feel exactly the same, but we are mindful of staying alert regarding Covid precautions. We will require that all who attend must be fully vaccinated and we will observe any other appropriate precautions in effect at the time of the convention. Our goal is a joyful, informative and safe reunion of statewide members!

We have worked to keep the expense of attendance down with a hotel room rate that is actually a bit less than in 2019, but in order to receive this early bird rate you must reserve your room by April 15. A Friday night dinner price increase reflective of current inflation could not be avoided, but it includes a delicious 4 course dinner with your choice of entree. Also, our gathering begins at 5PM on Friday with (2) free drink tickets and lovely appetizers, both will be complimentary from your State Board.

Speaking of Friday, we have a wonderful evening planned! Begin with a visit to the open bar, pick up an appetizer, visit with old and new friends and eventually make your way to a table. Last year we were honored to have Gloria Blackwell speak to us. It is an even greater honor that, before dinner, Gloria will be back with us (via Zoom) in her new role as Chief Executive Officer! We look forward to her update as we come to the close of her first fiscal year as CEO. After dinner, we will begin our celebration of 50 years of Title IX with a powerful documentary.

Check inside for the agenda details of a very busy, informative, and hopefully, inspiring Saturday. We believe our speakers and discussions will be timely and relevant.

In a very difficult time, branches have continued mission-based programs, online fundraisers and stayed connected virtually. Now let's come together to celebrate all that we do to empower women and girls and don't forget to take advantage of the early bird discounted registration fee and hotel room rate available only until April 15!

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# **AAUW-IL, Inc. 97th State Convention**

## **Together Again! All in for Equity**

**Friday - Saturday, May 6 - 7, 2022**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle Naperville – 3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle, IL**

### **AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell to speak Friday evening! National Update**



Gloria, in addition to her role as CEO, is also AAUW’s main representative to the United Nations. Among her many accomplishments is her 15-year management of AAUW’s highly esteemed fellowships and grants program—awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas.

Gloria has also been the driving force behind AAUW’s signature programs, including its salary negotiation trainings, which have reached nearly 190,000 nationwide. She has worked on pay equity initiatives with public officials in Washington D.C., New York City, Boston and Pittsburgh, as well as with numerous other state and municipal partners. She also worked with the National Science Foundation to increase girls participation in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. Most notably, Gloria has significantly expanded the AAUW’s outreach to girls and women of color.

Before joining AAUW in 2004 she was the director of Africa education programs at the Institute of International Education (IIE). She also managed fellowships programs during her decade at IIE and has held positions as a Peace Corps staff member and volunteer in Africa. She holds a master’s degree in education and human development from the George Washington University, a bachelor’s degree in international affairs from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and she studied at the American University in Paris. Gloria is committed to supporting opportunities and empowerment for women and girls globally.

### **Saturday Keynote Speaker – Julie Strauss, PhD Social Media: How is it Transforming our Democracy?**



Julie Strauss is a popular lecturer whose passion is teaching adults. She specializes in American Politics and covers diverse courses including, among others, the Recent Presidential Elections, the First 100 Days of the Trump Administration, Major Supreme Court Decisions, and the Role of the Media in Politics. For over twenty years, Julie has conducted classes on contemporary political topics for a wide range of audiences: women's and men's groups, charitable organizations, congregations, retirement communities, and life-long learners at Road Scholar seminars. She brings both academic expertise and real-world experience to her lectures. She is nonpartisan, fair and balanced in delivering her lectures. Julie motivates participants to think, question, and discuss the information she presents.

Julie received her Ph.D. in American Politics from Northwestern University. Her dissertation examined the unique role women members of Congress have had on public policy. Prior to entering graduate school, Julie spent two years on Capitol Hill working for elected officials. She received her undergraduate degree in social science from Wesleyan University. She currently lives in Evanston with her husband and two children.

## ***Taking Theory to Reality: DEI Panel***

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training is offered in many settings. What does it take to move DEI training from theory to reality? What does it take to have effective policy and programs in government, schools, and businesses? Our expert panel will share their experience, knowledge, and practical application of DEI.



**Dr. Harriet Hope Lewis,  
Moderator**

Dr. Harriet Hope Lewis, PhD  
Founder/CEO of Konensens Development Inc, a boutique consultancy that furthers equity and inclusion through CRS/DEI training and support, International trade, and tourism development

Dr. Rebecca Gordan, EdD  
Assistant VP of for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at North Central College



**Dr. Rebecca Gordan**



**Dr. Geneace Williams**

Dr. Geneace Williams, JD, PhD  
Diversity Equity and Inclusion Manager of the City of Naperville

Dr. Donna Kiel, EdD  
Professor in the Department of Leadership, Language, and Curriculum at DePaul



**Dr. Donna Kiel**

# AAUW-IL, Inc. 97th State Convention

**Together Again! All in for Equity**

**Friday - Saturday, May 6-7, 2022**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle Naperville**  
**3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle, IL**

## Convention Schedule

### Friday, May 6

3:00 – 4:00 PM AAUW-IL Board Meeting  
4:00 – 6:00 PM Registration Open  
5:00 – 5:45 PM Happy Hour (Open Bar)  
5:45 – 6:00 PM AAUW-IL President Lisa Cherry Opens the Convention  
6:00 – 6:45 PM Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO: National Update  
7:00 – 8:00 PM Dinner  
8:00 – 8:30 PM *The Queen of Basketball* (Documentary-Short Film)  
8:30 – 9:30 PM President's Reception

### Saturday, May 7

7:00 – 5:00 PM Exhibits Open  
7:00 – 9:00 AM Registration Open  
8:00 – 9:00 AM Breakfast Buffet  
9:00 – 9:15 AM AAUW-IL President Lisa Cherry's Welcome  
9:30 -10:30 AM Julie Strauss - *Social Media: How is it Transforming our Democracy?*  
10:30 -11:00 AM Break – Exhibits Open  
11:00 -12:00 PM *Taking Theory to Reality: Diversity and Inclusion Panel*  
  
12:00 - 2:00 PM Luncheon & Business Meeting:  
AAUW-IL President Lisa Cherry  
Agent of Change, Legacy Circle  
Branch Awards, Election of Officers  
Jenni Purdue, AAUW-IL Contract Lobbyist  
AJ Conroy - ERA

### Afternoon Special Topics

2:00 – 3:00 PM *Challenges to Intellectual Freedom: It's not just about banning books*, American Library Association  
  
3-15 – 4:15 PM *Branch Development: Using AAUW's Mission to Gain Community Recognition*, the Elgin Branch, Naperville Branch, and Naperville's Issues Action Team (I-ACT)  
  
4:15 – 4:30 PM Closing Wrap Up and Raffle

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**2022 AAUW-IL, Inc. Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle Naperville  
3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle, IL 60532**

**May 6-7, 2022**

Registration Deadlines: **Early Bird** – Submitted or postmarked by **April 15, 2022**

**General Deadline:** Submitted or postmarked by **April 28, 2022**

Register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-aauw-il-state-convention-registration-305056350757>

**OR Register me for:**  Friday Dinner and Program – 6 to 8 pm and President's Reception (5 pm Happy Hour)

Friday Entree Options (Check 1)  Beef Tenderloin & Portabella Stack

Salmon with Honey Ginger Sauce  Crispy Three-Cheese Risotto Cake with Romesco Sauce

Saturday Convention – 8 am to 4:30 pm includes hot breakfast buffet and lunch

Saturday Lunch Sandwich Choices:  Turkey & Swiss Cheese  Roast Beef & Provolone

Grilled Vegetables & Swiss

(Box lunch includes whole fresh fruit, potato chips, cookie, and soft drink)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

**Convention Fees**

Early Bird Registration for Saturday  
postmarked by April 15

\$60 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration after April 15

\$70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Dinner

\$60 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (includes Cocktails, Appetizers, Dinner & Program)

Display Table

\$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Past State Pres. Discount

-\$15 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TRIO Stipend\*\*

-\$60 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Members seeking a TRIO stipend certify that they are attending the state convention for the first time and providing documentation of approval from branch president.

**Mail registration form and payment to:**

Sue Stauffer, 1031 Seaview Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60193

Email: [staufferrw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:staufferrw@sbcglobal.net)

Home phone: (847) 985-5560

**Vaccine Mandate:** To register for the convention, we require you be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Check this box if you are fully vaccinated.

**REGISTRATION FORM CONTINUED  
ON NEXT PAGE.**

## 2022 AAUW-IL , Inc. Convention Registration Form (cont.)

**Check all that apply:**  Branch Member  National Member  
 State Board Member  College/University Rep  Student Affiliate  
 Past State President  First-Time Attendee  Legacy Circle Member  
 National Committee Member/Chair  TRIO registrant  Guest

### **SPECIAL NEEDS:**

I have the following dietary restrictions:

I would like a display table (Please bring table covering.)

I am interested in finding a roommate.

### **Room reservation at DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle Naperville Room rate guaranteed until April 15.**

\$119.00 + tax for standard double/double or standard king

Call 630-505-0900 to request a room with 2 double beds or 1 king.  
Be sure to ask for the group rate. After April 15, market rates apply.

### **Convention Registration Information**

#### **REGISTRATION DEADLINES:**

**Early Bird** – Submitted or postmarked before **April 15, 2022.**

**General Deadline:** Submitted or postmarked by **April 28, 2022.**

**Questions?** Contact Becky Glimco, Co-VP Programs, at [beckyglimco@gmail.com](mailto:beckyglimco@gmail.com) or 630-881-4948 or Sue Stauffer at [staufferrw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:staufferrw@sbcglobal.net) or 847-985-5560.

#### **Registration Method 1**

**Complete the registration form online** at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-aauw-il-state-convention-registration-305056350757> and pay your registration with a credit card. Your responses are automatically compiled.

#### **Registration Method 2**

Print and complete the registration form on pages 5-6 of this newsletter. Then mail the form, with your check made out to AAUW-IL, to Sue Stauffer, 1031 Seaview Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193.



## Meet the State Board Slate

### Jennifer Urish, Nominating Committee Chair



The nominating committee is pleased to present the slate of officers for the 2022-2024 term. The members of the Nominating Committee are: **Linda Knogl** (District 1), **Sallie Miller** (District 2), and **Lori Switzer** (District 4). 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.

### **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 prenatal 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.

### **Peg Gallagher, Co-Program Vice President — Schaumburg Area Branch (District 5)**



Peg Gallagher grew up in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, PA, graduating from Duquesne University with a BSN in 1976. After working as a staff RN in Philadelphia, she moved to the Chicago suburbs in 1978. She earned her MSN from Loyola University of Chicago and then her EdD in Educational Psychology from Northern Illinois University. Peg served as full-time faculty and then as an administrator, first at Harper College, then at Saint Xavier University in Chicago. In these roles, she developed new courses, secured grant funding, and chaired development of the University strategic plan. She retired from full-time work as the Interim Dean in 2020 but continues to teach online interdisciplinary coursework in her specialty area of gerontology. Peg has been active in the Schaumburg Area branch of AAUW for more than 30 years. She has served in most branch board positions including several terms as branch president, where she guided the branch to Five-Star status in 2020. Peg embraces the mission of

AAUW and instills the AAUW values into her children and grandchildren. She is excited for this invitation to participate on the AAUW Illinois State Board.

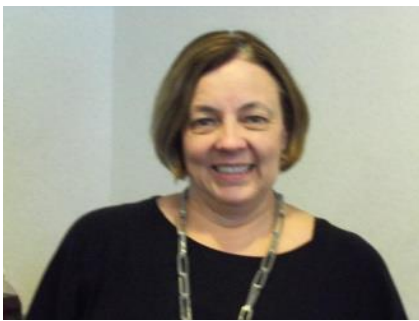
**Laura Desmarais, AAUW Funds Director — Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch (District 4)**



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.

**Andrea (Andi) Danis, Bylaws & Policy Director — Aurora Area Branch (District 4)**



Andi is currently serving on the AAUW-IL State Board as Director of Bylaws and Policy and is a past AAUW-IL State President, having served in various positions prior to that. She is currently serving (again!) as President of the Aurora Area Branch and is a member of the Speaker’s Bureau of the AAUW Gender Equity Fund of Illinois, Inc.

Outside of AAUW, Andi is the President of the Board of Directors of Mutual Ground, Inc., which provides services for victims of domestic and sexual violence, as well as those with substance use disorders. She is the President of the Minerva Coterie Literary Society of Aurora and is retired from a career in higher education administration, spending 25 years at Aurora University. Andi has been married for 47 years to husband, Ed. They have two daughters, and one very much loved (and spoiled) 11-year-old grandson. Beyond advocacy, Andi enjoys reading, travel, playing bridge, and spending time with family.

**Carol Heisler, Nominating Committee Chair, Crystal Lake Area Branch (District 5)**



Carol has been an AAUW member since 1993. She has held many board positions at her Crystal Lake Branch and at AAUW- IL, Inc. including serving as AAUW-IL President. At various times, she has also served as State Nominating Chair, State International Chair, and District 5 Director. At this time, she is the Diversity and Community Interaction Chair (CIA) at her branch. Carol is retired from her banking career working in Estate & Trust Departments, but continues to support AAUW and other local efforts, including acting as President of the Crystal Lake Kiwanis Club, which founded and maintains 10 Free Little Libraries in the area. As a church volunteer, she is active in providing handmade quilts for emergency distribution throughout the world, and as chief flower arranger for weekly gatherings. She and her husband enjoy traveling, advising their three daughters and their husbands, and spoiling their eight grandchildren

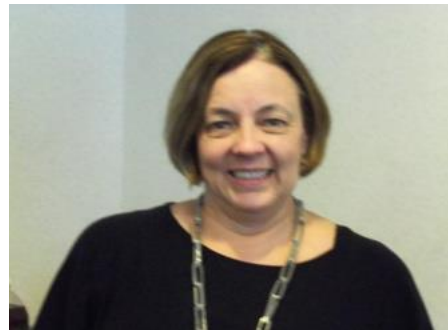


## **Ruth Holst, Finance Director-Elect — Chicago, Inc. Branch (District 4)**



Ruth Holst is currently serving as Finance Director for the Chicago, Inc. Branch, where she previously served as President. Ruth has been the College and University Relations Director for AAUW-IL since 2018 and reviewed Career Development Grants for AAUW from 2015-2019. She has been a member of the national Governance Committee since 2019. Ruth lives in Chicago with her husband, Bob.

## **Andi Danis Director – Bylaws & Policy**



Happy Almost Spring, AAUW Members! Spring is usually a busy time for AAUW branches – we are presenting our last few programs of the year, electing new officers, and hopefully, planning to come to our in-person State Convention, which will run May 6-7 in Lisle! I will be excited to actually see my AAUW friends from around the state, and hopefully meet new ones as well.

Whether or not you are able to join us at convention, though, you can still participate in one of the important responsibilities of state membership – voting! Electronic voting is here to stay, which means that every member truly can have a voice in the election of state leadership and on how the state organization operates.

This year, in addition to electing state board leadership positions, there are proposed amendments to our state bylaws that will be on your ballot. I, along with a select committee, have spent this past year reviewing and recommending revisions to our current bylaws; some of these revisions will allow us to operate with more flexibility and efficiency, while others merely “clean up” our wording to make the document more consistent and concise. Hopefully you have already viewed the election information that was sent out to you, which gives the rationale for the major changes, and also links to the full document for reference. If not, I encourage you to look them over and of course, vote!

It has also been my pleasure to work with some of your branches on your own “bylaws journey” this past year. If you have adopted new ways of operating these past several years, or if you are facing challenges with filling leadership positions or committees, you will also want to make sure your bylaws reflect your needs and can help sustain your branch. I am here and ready to help!

# Election Details

Jennifer Urish

While we are meeting in person this year, we will again be electing new officers and voting on amending the bylaws with an online survey.

There are **three** ways to vote:

- with the link to the online ballot in the April 1 special issue of *Connection*; please follow the link and vote.
- with the “VOTE” button after April 1 on the [state website](http://state.website), [aauw-il.aauw.net/](http://aauw-il.aauw.net/)
- with the paper ballot below that you can mail back.

## THE SLATE OF OFFICERS IS:

Program Co-Vice Presidents:	Becky Glimco and Peg Gallagher
AAUW Funds Director:	Laura Desmarais
Bylaws & Public Policy Director:	Andi Danis
Nominating Committee Chair:	Carol Heisler
Finance Director-Elect:	Ruth Holst

AAUW-IL members will be asked to vote on proposed changes to the AAUW-IL Bylaws as recommended by the AAUW-IL Board of Directors. These changes are recommended for several reasons: to allow the State Board to organize and operate in a more efficient and flexible manner, and to provide consistency in wording and references throughout the document. Every AAUW-IL member has the right to comment on proposed changes to the bylaws before they are put to the membership for a vote.

Included here is a General Summary of the changes made along with a [link](#) to the full document that shows every recommended deletion (black line) and addition or substitution (red type.)

## GENERAL SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS OF AAUW-IL, INC. AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**ARTICLE IX. Officers:** The changes proposed in this section are designed to reflect the board positions that are necessary to carry out the functions of the AAUW-IL State Board and to eliminate positions that have not proved useful or necessary.

We are proposing to remove the offices of president-elect and finance director-elect. This change was recommended by past and current office holders, citing that the need for a year of preparation is unnecessary and creates an additional time burden upon the nominee. The offices of president and finance director can only be filled by members with State Board experience and meet additional requirements as outlined in the policies. Throughout the document, all additional references to the offices of president-elect and finance director have

been marked for deletion. In addition, wording has been added or changed to allow for flexibility in filling the state offices

**ARTICLE X. Nominations and Elections:** The changes proposed in this article are being proposed to include the use and process of electronic voting. This allows for all members of AAUW-IL to vote instead of just those attending the annual meeting.

**ARTICLE XVI. Amendments to the Bylaws:** We propose the deletion of the existing Section 2 as we have been informed by the AAUW Governance Committee Chair that they no longer monitor affiliate bylaws beyond mandated changes.

**THROUGHOUT THE DOCUMENT:** Word changes are proposed throughout the document that will provide conformity:

One change refers to the way we identify AAUW-IL, Inc. The mandated AAUW bylaws refers to us as an Affiliate of AAUW. In order to differentiate between the State Affiliate and Branch Affiliates, we propose to refer to ourselves throughout the document as the ‘State Affiliate’.

Another change refers to the way we identify officers and directors of the State Board. To promote conformity, we have proposed changing all references to state the position subject first, followed by the position title, for example: Finance Director (rather than Director of Finance). Previously both styles of description were used in various places; this serves to bring all references into alignment.

Other word changes throughout the document are minor and reflect best language practices or to correct typographical/sentence errors. None of these word changes speaks to the intent of the sentence or paragraph.

The link to the full document with all proposed changes is: <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/>

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**Comments** may be submitted by any AAUW-IL member in good standing in the period beginning on March 1, 2022, and ending on March 31, 2022. Please send your comments to [Andi Danis](#).

**Voting** begins on April 1, 2022, and continues through May 6, 2022. Instructions for voting will be in the April 1 issue of *Connection* and the Spring *Link*.

All comments will be received by the Bylaws and Policy Director for review and possible additional consideration by the full Board of Directors.

Jennifer Urish, Chair  
Nominating Committee  
AAUW-IL, Inc.  
[JenniferUrish@gmail.com](mailto:JenniferUrish@gmail.com)

Andi Danis, Director  
Bylaws & Policy  
AAUW-IL, Inc.  
[danishouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danishouse@sbcglobal.net)

## 2022 AAUW-IL Election Paper Ballot

### AAUW-IL, Inc. 2022 Election

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<b>Program Co-Vice Presidents:</b>	<b>Becky Glimco &amp; Peg Gallagher</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>AAUW Funds Director:</b>	<b>Laura Desmarais</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Bylaws &amp; Public Policy Director:</b>	<b>Andi Danis</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Nominating Committee Chair:</b>	<b>Carol Heisler</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Finance Director-Elect:</b>	<b>Ruth Holst</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Bylaws Amendments:</b>	<b>Yes, amend the bylaws as presented</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>No, don't amend the bylaws</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Thank you for voting. Please mark your ballot and mail it to Lisa Cherry postmarked by May 1, 2022.**

**Lisa Cherry  
2S713 Parkview Drive  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137**

### **National Election 2022**

**It's your AAUW, and your voice counts. Voting will begin April 6 on the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws.**

AAUW members will be asked to vote on proposed changes recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would streamline two important organizational functions: nominations for the board and timing for those eligible to vote in AAUW elections. Watch your email for voting instructions. Online voting is encouraged. Voting will end on May 16.

## Laura Desmarais AAUW-IL Funds Director



### How to Support AAUW's Mission

Donations support AAUW's ability to promote equality for women and girls. This is the critical work of AAUW.

#### 9110-AAUW Greatest Needs Fund

This fund allows AAUW to respond rapidly, in our communications and advocacy, to critical issues affecting women as they emerge — whether it's a new threat to Title IX, an opportunity to partner with employers, or the dawn of a social justice movement like *Black Lives Matter* or Diversity and Inclusion. When donations are not restricted to fellowships or specific projects, we have the dollars we need to pivot as the national dialogue shifts — and get our work covered by major media outlets such as the New York Times, CNN and Fortune. Greatest Needs is also what fuels our groundbreaking research and effective advocacy work to pass fair-pay laws and other key equity legislation.

#### 4450-Education & Training Fund

Addresses the barriers that prevent women from thriving in school and pursuing the careers of their dreams. That means championing equal access to education and ensuring women can learn in environments free from harassment and discrimination. Examples: STEM, Title IX, Fellowships and Grants, Public Policy and Research

#### 4449-Economic Security Fund

Promotes women's livelihoods through advocacy for fair pay, legislation, researching the pay gap, training women to negotiate for the salaries they deserve, and advising employers on fostering fair cultures. Examples: Pay Equity, Start Smart, Work Smart, Legal Advocacy Fund

#### 4452-Leadership Fund

Supports AAUW's work to bolster the number of women in top roles across all industries by addressing systematic biases and giving women the skills and resources they need to lead. Examples: NCCWSL, Career Workplace Training, Campus Action Projects

### AAUW Contribution Report Form (CRF) Instructions

Use the CRF to submit contributions to AAUW or the AAUW Action Fund. You may download this form from the AAUW website at [www.aauw.org/resource/contribution-report-form-crf/](http://www.aauw.org/resource/contribution-report-form-crf/) or Finance/Fundraising officers can access it in the [Member Services Database](#).





Amy Green  
Co-Membership VP

## *Membership Matters*



Nann Hilyard  
Co-Membership VP

Spring is a time of renewal and rejuvenation, and that seems to be especially true this spring. We're emerging from two years of pandemic isolation with a new appreciation for the old normal – seeing friends in person, hugs, actual group conversation without having to hear “You're muted!” The pandemic's deprivations taught us just how important friendship, face-to-face social interaction, and shared experiences are to our overall well-being.

AAUW membership has many benefits. It empowers us to make a difference in the advancement of equity for all. It also gets us great discounts at Office Max and Office Depot! But perhaps the most underrated and undersold benefit of AAUW membership is personal interaction with intelligent peers. Mission provides the necessary commonality to bring a group together, but social connectivity is the glue that keeps a group together, and for many of us it's the thing about AAUW that brings the most meaning and satisfaction.

As branches consider strategies for membership recruitment, communicating the mission should certainly be a priority. But there's nothing wrong with also emphasizing the personal benefits of AAUW membership: opportunities for social interaction, intellectual stimulation, friendship, and personal growth through leadership. When considering member retention strategies, communicating AAUW's many accomplishments and ongoing projects is important. But don't forget the power of inclusivity and personal connection.

The 2022 State Convention will provide a great opportunity for the face-to-face interaction we've all missed so much. Hope to see you there!

In equity,

Amy

Questions about AAUW Membership? Contact Nann Hilyard [nbhilyard@att.net](mailto:nbhilyard@att.net) or Amy Green [ag2904@juno.com](mailto:ag2904@juno.com).



## **AAUW-IL Public Policy News**

**Tracey Sherman-Falcon and Paula Purdue  
Public Policy Co-Directors**



**Tracey**

***shermanfalcon@hotmail.com***

**Paula**

***paulapatchwork@gmail.com***

The Illinois Legislature had a fantastic Veto Override Session. The Repeal of Parental Notice was passed. Illinois is now 100% pro-choice. This is a major victory, especially with many states taking away women's right to control their reproductive health choices. Faye Marcus (Rockford) was very helpful with our coalition in making calls to get the repeal passed. We are so grateful to the following AAUW members who answered our call for volunteers to send thank you notes to every legislator who voted yes on this bill: Kathy Rusniak (Elgin Area), Elizabeth Carroll (Naperville Area), Jo-An Takamoto Sabonjian (Waukegan Area), Kate Skegg (Jane Addams Online), Patricia Spence (Wheaton-Glen Ellyn), Janis Westlund (Palos-Orland Area), and Faye Marcus (Rockford Area.) It is very important that we thank our legislators for supporting legislation that drives AAUW's mission.

Our Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act (PFML) SB 835 was not as successful in Veto session. However, this session, we finally got a House Bill, HB 5029. This is a not an easy bill to pass but nothing important passes in the Illinois Legislature without significant hard work.

Naperville Public Policy group, our Lobbyist, and Paula have been on most of the PFML coalition phone calls. This bill is important in many ways, but one of the main reasons AAUW is supporting this bill is to move closer to pay equity between the genders. When loved ones need care in the family, it is most often the women that leave their jobs to manage the family crisis. Because women end their jobs to help with family illness, they lose their benefits and the ability to get their old job back. The reality is that salaries and benefits, including pensions, are harmed. Thank you to Elizabeth Carroll and Peggy Frank of the Naperville Area Branch for being active in the PFML coalition. Your passion on this issue is inspiring.

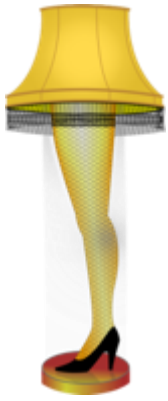
With Zoom technology (Thank You, Pandemic) we were able to host a meeting in February with 10 Public Policy branch chairs from across the state. We discussed the legislation AAUW is following and the challenges of this shortened session due to the delayed census, remapped districts, and how all legislators are campaigning in new/different areas. The primary election date has been changed from mid March to June 28, 2022. Every AAUW member needs to check and see what legislative district they are now in:

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/2/viewer?mid=13Wihm7IY1g9OwCQhbQRJU4NVFGqv\\_2A4&ll=39.79510521942542%2C-89.50414500000001&z=7](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/2/viewer?mid=13Wihm7IY1g9OwCQhbQRJU4NVFGqv_2A4&ll=39.79510521942542%2C-89.50414500000001&z=7)

Be sure to prepare before you vote in the June 28, 2022, Primary.

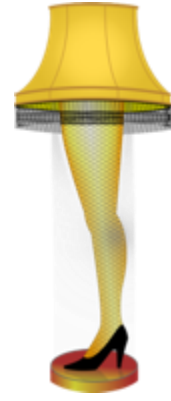
On March 18th we are attending a Lobby Day organized by the Cancer Society to share with our legislators the need for Paid Family and Medical Leave in Illinois.

**Our mission does not happen without Public Policy!**



## ***Local Engagement Grants***

***(LEG-Up)!***



**GRANTS Available to Branches through AAUW-IL, Inc.**

**Local Engagement Grant (LEG)**

**Start Smart Grant**

**Work Smart Grant**

***How can your branch apply?***

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. Maximum grant amount is \$500.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Schjelderup at [cs\\_schj@yahoo.com](mailto:cs_schj@yahoo.com).

**APPLY NOW**



**Carolyn**

# THE POWER OF LEAVING A LEGACY

## Plan Wisely - for Today's Needs and for Tomorrow

How do you take care of the people and things that matter most to you – now and for the future? Through careful planning, you can benefit your loved ones and your charitable interests while investing in equity for women and girls. Some reasons to create a plan include:

- Taking care of loved ones
- Memorializing someone you care about
- Advancing equity for women and girls through AAUW
- Increasing current income for you and/or others
- Passing more on to heirs with reduced taxes
- Reducing income tax
- Avoiding capital gains tax

As you consider what is important to you and how to reflect that in your legacy, we invite you to reach out to us. Our knowledgeable gift planning staff is available to assist with any questions you may have. You may also request a Legacy Circle brochure by calling or emailing AAUW's National Office. **You can make a difference in the lives of women and girls by joining the AAUW Legacy Circle. For assistance, contact Heather Miller, AAUW National's Director of Advancement, at: 202-785-7766 or by email, at [millerh@aauw.org](mailto:millerh@aauw.org). Kim Benziger of the AAUW Legacy Circle Team is also available to assist you and may be reached by email, at [marlakim2@aol.com](mailto:marlakim2@aol.com).**

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THE FUTURE

If you are considering including AAUW National in your estate plans, please accept our thanks. So often, wonderful and committed AAUW members make these gifts, but we are unable to thank them because we don't learn of their decision during their lifetime. We ask that you let us know so we may honor and celebrate you in the Legacy Circle. These gifts make a huge difference, and we are deeply grateful for your generosity.

Here is some suggested wording for your attorney: "After fulfilling all other specific provisions, I give, devise, and bequeath \_\_\_% of the residue [or \$\_\_\_\_\_ if a specific amount] to AAUW National, a District of Columbia charitable corporation [Tax ID #52-6037388] currently having offices located at 1310 L Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005."

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

TO:



OF ILLINOIS

**Save the date!**  
**“Together Again! All in for Equity”**  
**AAUW-IL 97<sup>th</sup> State Convention**  
**May 6-7, 2022**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle Naperville**