



# 97<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention

Together Again! All in for Equity

Annual Reports

May 6-7, 2022  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Lisle, IL



## **Mission**

Gender Equity and Economic Security

## **Values**

Intersectional  
Inclusive  
Intergenerational  
Empowering

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## President's Report

Welcome to the 97th AAUW-IL., Inc. State Convention, "Together Again! - All in for Equity". Our last in person statewide gathering was in 2019 and what a three-year period it has been since then! No one could have anticipated the challenges we would face. However, the isolation, roadblocks, and the anxiety we encountered proved to be no match for the commitment and creativity of Illinois branches and members. We took on the technical learning process and stayed virtually connected. An outstanding series of webinars were offered from our national office. Thanks to Zoom, we have been able to participate in strong, mission-based programs from all over the state. We have demonstrated that our resolve has never been stronger in the fight for equity!

This convention booklet contains reports from your AAUW-IL Board of Directors. These reports are intended to give you an idea of what we have been working on this year and will perhaps give your branch some ideas for our next fiscal year. We have worked to increase the amount of communication to branches and members with our Fall Conference, monthly e-newsletter *Connection*, our twice-yearly editions of LINK, virtual statewide meetings of branch Presidents, Facebook, and our state website. We hope you are receiving the e-mailings and find them informative and relevant. Please reach out to us with any suggestions for enhanced communication or other assistance that would be helpful.

As I end my term, I want you to know that it has been an honor, a privilege and most of all, a joy to serve as President. It has been a gift to serve on a Board with a wonderful and committed group of women. When I joined AAUW nine years ago, I knew immediately that I had found my tribe. Experiencing a pandemic, an economic recession, an urgent national conversation about systemic racism and an assault on women's rights has only strengthened my commitment to my AAUW home, which was built on the mission of equity!

Lisa Cherry, President  
AAUW-IL, Inc.  
[lisacherryhome@aol.com](mailto:lisacherryhome@aol.com)

AAUW website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

AAUW-IL website: [www.aauw-il.aauw.net](http://www.aauw-il.aauw.net)

AAUW-IL on Facebook : [www.facebook.com/aauw.il](https://www.facebook.com/aauw.il) or search @aauwil

AAUW-IL on Twitter: @aauwil

## AAUW-IL, Inc. Board of Directors 2020-2021

<b>Elected Officers</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Branch (District)</b>
President	Lisa Cherry	<a href="mailto:lisacherryhome@aol.com">lisacherryhome@aol.com</a>	Wheaton-Glen Ellyn (4)
Director of Finance	Carolyn Schjelderup	<a href="mailto:cs_schj@yahoo.com">cs_schj@yahoo.com</a>	Rock Island-Moline (3)
Co-VP, Programs	Becky Glimco	<a href="mailto:beckyglimco@aol.com">beckyglimco@aol.com</a>	Naperville (4)
	Sharon Lee	<a href="mailto:sforanlee@comcast.net">sforanlee@comcast.net</a>	Decatur (2)
Co-VP, Membership	Nann Blaine Hilyard	<a href="mailto:nbhilyard@att.net">nbhilyard@att.net</a>	Waukegan (5)
	Amy Green	<a href="mailto:ag2904@juno.com">ag2904@juno.com</a>	Springfield (2)
Funds Director	Laura Desmarais	<a href="mailto:lkdesmarais@gmail.com">lkdesmarais@gmail.com</a>	Wheaton-Glen Ellyn (4)
Director, Bylaws & Policy	Andi Danis	<a href="mailto:danishouse@sbcglobal.net">danishouse@sbcglobal.net</a>	Aurora (4)
Nominating Comm Chair	Jennifer Urish	<a href="mailto:jenniferurish@gmail.com">jenniferurish@gmail.com</a>	Belleville (1)

### Appointed Officers

District Director, IL North Districts 4 and 5	Donna Jean Simon	<a href="mailto:djsimon@questillc.com">djsimon@questillc.com</a>	Wheaton-Glen Ellyn (4)
District Director, IL South Districts 1, 2, 3	Marcia Wherry	<a href="mailto:mjwherry@aol.com">mjwherry@aol.com</a>	Springfield (2)
Co-Director, Public Policy	Paula Purdue Tracey Sherman-Falcon	<a href="mailto:paulapatchwork@gmail.com">paulapatchwork@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:shermanfalcon@hotmail.com">shermanfalcon@hotmail.com</a>	Chicago, Inc. (4) Aurora (4)
Director, College/University	Ruth Holst	<a href="mailto:holstruth@gmail.com">holstruth@gmail.com</a>	Chicago, Inc. (4)

### Off Board Leadership

Link Editor	Marilyn Van Ausdall	<a href="mailto:vanausdm@gmail.com">vanausdm@gmail.com</a>	Monmouth (3)
Connection, Directory, Convention Book	Jennifer Urish	<a href="mailto:jenniferurish@gmail.com">jenniferurish@gmail.com</a>	Belleville (1)
Legislative Consultant	Jenni Purdue	<a href="mailto:jpurdue@jandjlegislative.com">jpurdue@jandjlegislative.com</a>	
Social Media Manager	Kate Skegg	<a href="mailto:kate@skegg.net">kate@skegg.net</a>	Downers Grove (4)
Website Manager	Leslie Sulla	<a href="mailto:relsulla@comcast.net">relsulla@comcast.net</a>	Lombard (4)

# **Convention Arrangements**

## **Convention Booklet**

Jennifer Urish and AAUW-IL Board

## **Convention Planning**

Sharon Lee and Becky Glimco, Co-Vice Presidents, Program

Thanks



## **Order of Business**

AAUW-IL, Inc. State Annual Meeting

Call to Order by President Lisa Cherry

Appointment of Committee to Approve Convention Minutes

Report from President  
(see convention booklet)

Reports of the Board of Directors of AAUW-IL, Inc.  
(see convention booklet)

Report on Public Policy

Report on the ERA

Agent of Change

Report of the Election and Officer Installation

Adjournment

## Minutes of the Ninety-sixth Annual Convention AAUW-IL., INC.

The AAUW-IL 96th Annual Convention was held virtually via Zoom on April 24, 2021. The national organization was represented by Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer Gloria Blackwell. Additional speakers were Gretchen Goldman, Michelle Duster, and Kimberly Stratton.

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by President Lisa Cherry. Lisa appointed Sally Vogl, Ruth Holst, and Laura Desmarais to serve as Readers of the minutes of the 2021 meeting.

Paula Johnson Purdue presented the Public Policy Report. AAUW-IL is supporting a number of bills in the Illinois Legislature concerning repeal of parental notice for abortion, paid family and medical leave, and the Healthy Youth Bill. The COVID pandemic has made lobbying difficult, but Jenny Purdue continues to actively serve as AAUW-IL's paid lobbyist. Paula thanked volunteers who worked on bills and raised AAUW's visibility. Paula noted that all female Illinois lawmakers except one have signed on as sponsors of AAUW's pay equity bill. Lisa thanked Paula and Tracey Sherman-Falcon for their work as Public Policy Co-chairs.

Tracey presented the Agent of Change Award to Aurora Branch member Joy Bowling. Joy is active in many volunteer organizations including AAUW, AKA sorority, church, food pantry, Soles for Souls, NAACP, and a scholarship program. Most of all, Joy is passionate about voter registration activities. She has been registering voters for 40 years and has trained other registrars. She registered 67 people to vote in 2020. She participated in get out the vote efforts, making over 500 calls. Joy has also served as an election judge for over 40 years. Joy expressed appreciation for the award.

The election of officers was held electronically prior to the convention. The following officers for 2021-2023 were announced:

President-Elect:	Donna Jean Simon, District #4
Co-V.P.s for Membership:	Nann Hilyard, District #5, and Amy Green, District #2
Secretary:	Gay Gavin, District #1

Lisa conducted installation of officers Donna Jean, Nann and Amy. Gay was not present for the meeting and will be installed at the next board meeting. Lisa expressed thanks to AAUW-IL's 15 board members and 5 off-board members. Lisa also thanked Sally Vogl who has completed her term as Co-V.P. for Membership.

Southern District Director Marcia Wherry and Northern District Director Donna Jean Simon expressed appreciation to all the branch leaders who adapted to the challenges of the pandemic year and kept their branches active. Marcia recognized Kate Skegg and the Jane Addams Branch for their online programming. The convention book contains 2020-21 activity summaries from the branches. Marcia highlighted some of the branches' program topics and fundraising activities. Donna Jean congratulated the Schaumburg Area Branch for achieving 5 stars, the Elgin Branch for their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the Jane Addams Branch for their technical help with the convention. Lisa thanked Marcia and Donna Jean for carrying out a seamless transition as the number of District Directors was decreased from five to two.

Reports from other officers were printed in the convention book.

No new business was raised. In closing, Lisa thanked everyone who assisted with the convention and urged members to vote for the national open membership by-laws change. The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Green  
Recording Secretary

Approved by Sally Vogl, Ruth Holst and Laura Desmarais - June 2021

**AAUW-IL, Inc. 97<sup>th</sup> State Convention**  
**Together Again! All In for Equity**  
**Friday – Saturday, May 6 & 7, 2022**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton, Lisle, IL**

**Convention Schedule**

**Friday, May 6**

3:00 – 4:30 PM	AAUW-IL Board Meeting	Aspen
4:00 – 6:00 PM	Registration Open	Atrium
5:00 – 5:45 PM	Happy Hour (Drinks & Appetizers)	Pine/Spruce/Walnut
5:45 – 6:00 PM	<b>AAUW-IL President Lisa Cherry</b> Opens Convention	
6:00 – 7:00 PM	<b>Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO:</b> <i>One AAUW: Building Equity for All</i>	
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Dinner	
8:00 – 8:30 PM	<i>The Queen of Basketball</i> (Documentary-Short Film)	
8:30 – 9:30 PM	President's Reception	

**Saturday, May 7**

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Registration Open	Atrium
7:00 – 5:00 PM	Exhibits Open	Pine/Spruce/Walnut
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast Buffet	
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Welcome from <b>AAUW-IL President Lisa Cherry</b>	
9:15 -10:30 AM	<i>Social Media: How is it Transforming our Democracy?</i> - <b>Julie Strauss</b>	
10:30-11:00 AM	Break – Exhibits Open	
11:00-12:00 PM	<i>Taking Theory to Reality:</i> Diversity and Inclusion Panel Moderator: <b>Harriet Hope Lewis</b> ; Panelists: <b>Rebecca Gordon, Donna Kiel, and Geneace Williams</b>	
12:00 - 2:00 PM	Luncheon & Business Meeting: <b>AAUW-IL President Lisa Cherry</b> Agent of Change Election and Installation of Officers <b>Jenni Purdue</b> - AAUW-IL Contract Lobbyist <b>AJ Conroy</b> - ERA	Maple/Elm/Ash

**Afternoon Special Topics**

Pine/Spruce/Walnut

2:15 - 3:15 PM	<i>Branch Development: Using AAUW's Mission to Gain Community Recognition</i> - <b>Jennifer Ford</b> , Elgin Area Branch; <b>Debbie Fertel &amp; Anne Swanson</b> , Naperville Area Branch; and <b>Shoshana Frank</b> , Naperville Area Branch Issues Action Team (I-ACT)	
3:15 - 4:15 PM	<i>Challenges to Intellectual Freedom: It's not just about banning books</i> - <b>Deborah Caldwell-Stone</b> , American Library Association	
4:15 - 4:30 PM	Closing Wrap Up and Raffle	



## Speakers

### Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO



**Gloria Blackwell**, 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.

### Julie Strauss, PhD



**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 Road Scholar students. She is a fair and balanced speaker who brings academic expertise and real-world experience to 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



**Dr. Harriet Hope Lewis** is Founder/CEO of Konesens Development, a boutique consultancy that furthers equity and inclusion through CSR/DEI training and support, international trade and tourism development-- all with the goal of increasing understanding and creating economic opportunities as pathways to sustainable peace. Prior, Dr. Lewis had been employed as the Executive Director and in other executive leadership positions with nonprofit/non-governmental organizations that serve survivors of domestic violence, refugees and immigrants, formerly incarcerated individuals, small business owners, and urban youth.

In 2004, she received a congratulations from the Massachusetts House of Representatives, offered by State Representative Peter Koutoujian, “in recognition of your commitment to REACH and the difference that you have made in the lives of countless survivors and their families. Your leadership, dedication, and compassion has been inspiring and has truly enriched our community.” In 2015, she was awarded the Interfaith Leadership Award by NEEDCSI; and in 2018, she was appointed as Honorary Consul for the Republic of Cabo Verde to the State of Illinois. She serves on the board and is the United Nations Representative of the Nigerian NGO, NEEDCSI; is Co-Chair of the Re-Defining National Security (RDNS) Working Group for the DC-based organization, Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Transformation (WCAPS); and serves on the Board of Directors of Insight Chicago Hospital and Medical Center.



**Dr. Rebecca Gordon** is the assistant vice president for equity, diversity, and inclusion; Title IX/504 coordinator. Dr. Gordon (pronoun, R) is a member of the Latina and LGBTQIA+ communities. Dr. Gordon earned a doctorate in education and a master of science in clinical psychology from Northern Illinois University, and a bachelor of science in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh.

Prior to arriving at North Central, Dr. Gordon served as director of the Women’s Leadership and Resource Center and later the executive associate director and Title IX coordinator in the Office of Access and Equity at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).



**Dr. Geneace Williams, Esq.**, has a career that spans law practice, business leadership, academia, the faith community, and executive level Board leadership. Her expertise includes corporate defense law, diversity equity & inclusion (DEI), ethics, strategic planning, and leadership development. Dr. G (as she is affectionately called) has a history of leading change and managing conflict and crises utilizing strength-based methods. She helps others exercise a more thoughtful and solution-oriented approach to today’s dilemmas and has successfully connected organizations and communities to ideals that foster growth and advancement.

With a heart for philanthropy, she previously served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) and currently serves on the DEI Advisory Committee and Executive Advisory Team for the DuPage Children’s Museum, the DEI Committee of the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Diversity Task Force and DEI Working Group of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Geneace is the author of Leadership DASH: Breaking Through the Finish Line, an insightful

work that gets at the heart of how people become leaders of impact. Having spoken in diverse venues around the world, Dr. G's strategies for leadership have positively influenced many.

She holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Illinois and practiced law many years prior to her work in the consulting arena. She also holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) with ethics as one of her main areas of inquiry. Dr. Williams previously served as a Law and Ethics Lecturer at Benedictine University and taught Humanities and Ethics at the College of DuPage. She is a frequent speaker and mentor to many. Currently, she serves on staff at the City of Naperville as its first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager. As part of the city leadership team, Dr. Williams spearheads Naperville's work toward "creating an inclusive community that values diversity." An ordained minister, Geneace values the unique perspective her full background brings to the work and is guided by her life's principle: "A leader's impact encourages others in the pursuit of purpose." Two adages are at the core of her approach to life, "positive change presupposes confronting your growing edges" and "the possibility of extraordinary begins at the edge of comfort."



**Dr. Donna Kiel** is the founding Director of the Office of Innovative Professional Learning in the College of Education at DePaul University and an Instructional Assistant Professor in Educational Leadership. Prior to her tenure at DePaul, Dr. Kiel served as a counselor, assistant principal, and principal in K-12 schools. Her passion for equity, compassion for students, and dedication to help others achieve their highest and truest potential has driven her work at all levels of education.

She has created innovative initiatives and groundbreaking programs in racial justice and social emotional learning. Her empathy framework, E3 Framework, provides practical tools to develop a school culture of compassion, connection, and curiosity which increases the effectiveness of teachers, students, and parents. Her RISE (Reflection, Inquiry, Self-Awareness, and Empathy) Micro-credential Program supports educators with strategies to engage students and integrate racial equity in teaching. To create positive change in our world, Dr. Kiel has also launched DePaul's professional development programs in other countries, including China and South Africa. Dr. Kiel holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

She received a master's degree in curriculum and instruction as well as licensure in school counseling from Concordia University, River Forest, IL. Dr. Kiel earned her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Northcentral University, Prescott, AZ.

## **Branch Development: Using AAUW's Mission to Gain Community Recognition**

**Jennifer Ford**, Elgin Area Branch: Diversity Chair / Coordinator for Women and Culture creates opportunities for Branch members to establish meaningful connections with diverse communities in their community.

**Debbie Fertel** and **Anne Swanson**, Naperville Area Branch: Co-Program VPs plan monthly programs based on the 5 star program and the AAUW mission and public policy. **Shoshana Frank**, Naperville Area Branch: Issues Action Team (I-ACT)- a public policy group that provides research and action to effect change to improve the lives of women and their families will present how they have used AAUW public policy and mission statements to develop programs and collaborate with like minded groups in their community. They will also discuss how developing these programs, methods, and connections have increased AAUW visibility, created new connections, and recruited new members.

## Challenges to Intellectual Freedom: It's not just about banning books

What is Intellectual freedom and how does this concept relate to school boards and public libraries? Intellectual freedom is more than banning books. Challenges to material are happening around our country at an alarming rate. **Deborah Caldwell-Stone** from the American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom will share thoughts on how different populations are impacted by the push by some members of society to define what is acceptable content for all.

Deborah Caldwell-Stone is Director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and Executive Director of the Freedom to Read Foundation. For over twenty years she has worked closely with library professionals and library trustees on a wide range of intellectual freedom issues related to library service in the United States. She has served on the faculty of the ALA-sponsored Lawyers for Libraries and Law for Librarians workshops and is a contributor to the 10th edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual. She has contributed articles on law, policy, and intellectual freedom to American Libraries and other publications.

# Officer Reports

## **Membership Vice Presidents Nann Hilyard and Amy Green**

As of February 1, 2022, there were 35 AAUW branches in Illinois with a total membership of 1683. That represents a loss of 108 members from the 2021 total. Ten branches retained at least 100% of the number of members. Of those, and despite the challenges we have all experienced over the last year, 78 people joined branches across the state.

Branches that maintained or increased their total membership are:

- Batavia-Geneva-St. Charles
- Belleville
- Carbondale
- Champaign-Urbana
- Jane Addams Online
- Jersey-Calhoun County
- Naperville
- Ottawa
- Palos-Orland
- Schaumburg

The Five-Star National Recognition Program rewards AAUW branches and states that document their work in alignment with AAUW's strategic plan and initiatives. Stars are awarded for programs, advancement, communications and external relations, public policy, and governance/sustainability.

We celebrate these branches that found innovative ways to continue and strengthen their initiatives and have received stars under this recognition program:

- Five Stars—Naperville
- Five Stars – Schaumburg
- Four Stars – Crystal Lake
- Three Stars – Chicago
- One Star – Elmhurst

**Financial Statement**  
**July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**  
**Carolyn Schjelderup**  
**Finance Director**

<b>INCOME</b>		
Dues	\$	15,116.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,116.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
100 President Operating	\$	93.43
501 Audit	\$	25.00
1201 Lobbyist	\$	7,516.75
1400 State Insurance	\$	999.00
1401 Incorporation Expenses	\$	10.00
1501 Stationary & Supplies	\$	22.00
1504 State Publications	\$	369.99
1601 Local Engagement Grants	\$	1,025.99
2004 State Convention Speaker Fees	\$	950.00
2005 Awards	\$	167.25
2300 Regional Conv.-General	\$	195.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,374.41</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,741.59</b>

**Balance Sheet**  
**June 30, 2021**  
**Carolyn Schjelderup**  
**Finance Director**

<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CHECKING ACCT. Regions Bank</b>	<b>\$ 19,156.67</b>	<b>30-Jun-21</b>
<b>INVESTMENT ACCT. Vanguard</b>	<b><u>\$ 124,339.01</u></b>	<b>30-Jun-21</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 143,495.68</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$143,495.68</b>	

## **Report of the Nominating Committee**

### **Jennifer Urish, Nominating Committee Chair**

The nominating committee is pleased to present the slate of officers for the 2022-2024 term. Candidates will be voted on electronically and new officers will be installed at the 2022 Convention held May 6-7, 2022.

Program Vice President(s):	<b>Becky Glimco and Peg Gallagher</b>
AAUW Funds Director:	<b>Laura Desmarais</b>
Bylaws & Policy Director:	<b>Andi Danis</b>
Nominating Committee Chair:	<b>Carol Heisler</b>
Finance Director-Elect:	<b>Ruth Holst</b>

The members of the Nominating Committee are **Linda Knogl, Jennifer Urish, Sallie Miller, and Lori Switzer**. Thank you to the committee members and others who suggested possible candidates

### **AAUW Funds**

#### **Laura Desmarais, Director**

AAUW has recently released an update to its new website that makes it possible to donate on line. For the first time, you will be able to donate directly to AAUW with a credit card or bank transfer. You will see a DONATE button on the new AAUW website home page.

You will be asked to sign in. All members are required to establish a new password to access the AAUW website. This is the same password you will use to renew your membership online.

If you cannot make an online donation, you will still be able to send a donation to AAUW.

The Grants defined for online donation are listed below. The names of the funds have changed. The descriptions of the donation categories are similar to last year. Clicking on the grant description leads to a new screen where your donation to that fund can be processed.

#### **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 #MeToo. 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **4451-Governance & Sustainability Fund**

- Donating to the Governance and Sustainability Fund enables AAUW to function as effectively and efficiently as possible—following the latest best practices for hiring and governance and incorporating state-of-the-art technology into our member database and other systems.

### **2504-National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Scholarships**

- The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Scholarship Fund provides access for a broader and more diverse audience to be a part of the leadership training, inspiration and networking opportunities provided during this event. For 2022 scholarships are \$195 per attendee so every contribution can make a difference and the more donations received, the more students are able to attend the conference.



## NAMED GIFT HONOREES

### **Aurora Area**

In Honor of Roberta Devorsky

### **Batavia- Geneva- St.Charles**

In Honor of Maureen Brandon

In Honor of Catherine Burandt

### **Belleville**

In Honor of Linda DeBoer

In Honor of Carolyn Ryseff

### **Elmhurst Area**

In Honor of Jennifer Jordan

In Honor of Suzanne Stock

### **Downers Grove Area**

In honor of Amy Buonassisi

In Honor of Harriett Lindstrom

In Honor of Barbara Norem

In Honor of Kim Venzon

In Honor of Coleen Walter

### **Naperville Area**

In Honor of Elizabeth Carroll

In Honor of Peggy Frank

In Honor of Shoshana Frank

In Honor of Mike Hollman

### **Palos-Orland Area**

In Honor of Their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### **Peoria Area**

In Honor of Shirlee Anderson Harper

### **Riverside**

In Honor of Krista Lane

In Honor of Yvonne Lindahl

In Honor of Margaret Rohter

### **Rockford Area**

In Honor of Christine Haeggquist

In Honor of Marilen Loyola

In Honor of Sharon Boehlefeld

In Honor of Diane Kuehl

In Honor of Judy Schultz

### **Springfield**

In Honor of Laura Gundrum

In Honor of Deanie Brown

In Honor of Colleen Stone

In Honor of Beth Langen

In Honor of Susan Allen

In Honor of Judy Flickinger

### **Wheaton-Glen Ellyn**

In Honor of Maureen Sheehan

In Honor of Fran Kravitz

In Honor of Patricia Spence

# Branch Reports

## Best Practices in Programs, Engaging Members, and Fundraising

### **Northern District**

The Northern District Branches were able to overcome the recent challenges in a variety of innovative and compelling ways. Many had interesting and mission-based programs, supported important causes through fundraising efforts, and sought to enhance the membership experience. In reading about sister branches, hopefully additional ideas for next year will be sparked and acted upon.

### **Aurora Area Branch**

We are currently wrapping up a very successful branch year, with a mix of virtual and in-person programming, book club meetings and movie group gatherings. We were pleased to have gained three new members, we believe, as a result of our relevant and mission-based programs and study groups. Our most successful programs included a presentation with a local author who shared her experience as a Cuban immigrant. This was a good way to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. We next partnered with the Aurora Public Library system to offer a distinguished panel on Critical Race Theory, both in person and on FB Live. This was very well-attended by the public as well as our branch members. Additional program topics included Women's Economic Security and notable Black Women in History.

We were pleased to partner with many other area branches in a program organized by AAUW-Naperville Area that focused on Combating Disinformation at Local School Board Meetings. As a result of this program, we are establishing groups to attend area school board meetings to support them and public education as a whole. And we held a virtual chat with local legislators in partnership with the Batavia/Geneva/St. Charles Branch.

Our book club continues to focus on racial equity and diversity of all kinds. Our discussions were vibrant and honest, tackling the hard issues that must be reckoned with. Books of note included: *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery*; *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*; *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family Keepsake*; *Separated: Inside an American Tragedy*. We also tackled the opioid crisis, the climate crisis and learning about the women in the old west.

Our movie group continues to be very popular, reviewing movies directed/written/produced, or covering topics of importance to women, such as: *Ask for Jane*; *The Vote: Part II*; *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*; *On the Basis of Sex*; *Changing the Game*, and others.

### **Batavia–Geneva–St. Charles Branch**

We greatly enjoyed our branch programs with Angela Jackson, the Poet Laureate of Illinois, and with Kelvin Harris. Mr. Harris spoke about "The Politics of Place: Confronting Race and Creating Equitable Communities in a Covid-19 World". In the fall we supported Girl Forward, an organization dedicated to helping immigrant high school girls. We assembled personal care packages for Afghan girls displaced by the withdrawal of the United States, including a message of welcome for each girl. In an effort to counterbalance the recent trend in downplaying our country's immigrant past, an exploration of our members' own immigration stories was started. Each month the newsletter highlights a different member who shares, in her own words, how she and her family came to be here.

Along with the Aurora branch we co-hosted a Zoom opportunity to chat with our state Senators, Linda Holmes and Karina Villa. We learned what their tasks as a legislator entails and how we can help by

sharing our priorities. Along with several other branches, we joined the Naperville Branch in co-sponsoring a webinar on disinformation at school boards and library boards. Our Connections group will put together a committee to coordinate our efforts to contact school and library board members with messages of support, including attending these meetings in each of our communities. We conducted our 43<sup>rd</sup> Creative Writing Contest for middle school students in our area. We received 200 entries and will present awards to the winners at our April 7<sup>th</sup> branch meeting. Our spring and fall flower sale fund-raisers continue to be successful.

### **Crystal Lake Branch**

We were happy to be meeting in person this year, although we did opt for a zoom meeting in February due to the COVID surge.

Programs for this year have included: presentations from two female McHenry County College Vice-Presidents; a Field trip to the McHenry County College green house; a beautiful holiday program from our local 'Voices in Harmony'; a fascinating presentation from a young female owner of a local plastics manufacturing company; a presentation about Turning Point, a local domestic violence shelter and services; celebration of 65 years of our branch; and a tour in May of the Frances Willard House Museum in Evanston.

Branch members supported the Community College fundraiser to help students with food insecurities. We participated in the Crystal Lake Community holiday tree decoration with a tree theme of "All different, all beautiful." We continue to contribute to making sanitary kits for girls in Africa so that they can attend school all month long. There are scholarships that have been awarded at McHenry County College as well as the Crystal Lake branch of Columbia College.

### **Downers Grove Area Branch**

We have had a transforming year for our members. We have been able to continue with meetings via Zoom and we have begun to offer meetings in person as well as with Zoom. Our members have had options for each gathering.

Our presentations have provided us with opportunities to learn about important historical women from some decades back as well as recent accomplished ladies from our own local communities. One of these meetings was combined with another nearby Branch. Additionally, we co-sponsored along with 6 other Branches, a webinar covering the "Disinformation by others to disrupt School Board meetings", informing us about some political groups who are choosing to create problems within the community setting.

This year we developed a newly appointed Board position for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This person will be involved in decisions as to our efforts to be a more open gathering of women with wide and current interests.

We have continued our Scholarship awards through donations from our members. And, we will have our Used Book Sale this summer which has been on hiatus for 2 years.

Our Nomination Committee is currently involved with the selection of nominees for Officers for the 2022-23 year ahead. Our Installation of New Officers will take place at our Annual meeting in May which will be in person and via Zoom.

Given the past constraints of meeting in person we are gradually creating new experiences for all of our members so that we may continue the goals and mission of AAUW.

### **Elmhurst Area Branch**

Our new corporation, AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch, NFP applied for and was granted 501(c)(3) Not for Profit status, which gives our branch the ability to accept contributions and donations to the donor among other benefits.

Half the Sky had several successful projects. Working in cooperation with the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants (ICDH) Half the Sky has given Bethany House of Hospitality hundreds of

snack bags for immigrants' bus travel, over 44 wallets (most containing money), 58 monthly need bags, many heavy and light weight Men's coats. In the fall Half the Sky decided to support Afghan refugees and created three WELCOME KITS (entire household of goods) working with WORLD RELIEF. In July, our branch had the most successful book sale ever, and we had fun doing it! We were able to keep thousands of books out of landfills and grossed over \$20,000!

Because of the success of the book sale our branch was able to donate over \$10,000 to National and the Funds Committee recommended to offer three \$3000 scholarships to returning students and one \$1000 scholarship to a Dare-to-Dream Scholarship student.

We have hosted programs (via ZOOM) including:

Restore Our Democracy – Addressed the problem of unlimited political money corrupting our democracy.

Protecting Seniors from Identity Theft, Scams, and Elder Abuse

Book Discussion: The Women's March: A Novel of the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession by Jennifer Chiaverini

"Just Bag It!" a discussion of the work of the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants which assists a multi-pronged program of assisting immigrants as they travel through Illinois or set up a home here. Our branch is heavily involved in these activities.

"Understanding the difference Between Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)" workshop.

Gertrude Stein: Picasso, Picasso in Paris :Co-hosted with the Elmhurst Public Library (Via ZOOM or In Person) Betsey Means portrays Gertrude Stein in the 1920s Paris.

### **Lockport Area Branch**

The focus this year was on "trying to get back to normal". We started the year with three face-to-face programs on the Israel/Palestine situation, the Will County focus on Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and *Fashioning Illinois, 1820-1900*, at the Lockport gallery of the Illinois State Museum, *which* explored the personal experience of wearing and caring for clothing and how fashion reflected women's changing roles and attitudes over the first 80 years of Illinois statehood. We also reviewed and discussed "Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson – a must read for all of us.

Finally, we continue our involvement with a ZOOM Meeting on the Power and Effects of Cultural Diversity. We are proud to announce that we end our year with a celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 25<sup>th</sup> having been chartered on April 20, 1972.

### **Naperville Area Branch**

#### *Program Success*

Our success this year was transforming all of our programming, practically overnight, to virtual format. Over 70% of our 85 members joined one or more events online. This new format allowed us to open our events to a broader audience and to offer engaging speakers who might not have been available otherwise. We hosted programs on "Citizens United, Campaign Financing & Gender Equity" with Dr. Steve Macek, Professor of Communication, North Central College; and on "Perspectives on Gun Violence" with an expert panel including Leslie Ruffing, volunteer group leader for the Naperville area Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Naperville Chief of Police Robert Marshall, and Tami Tunnell, downstate outreach coordinator for GPEC-ICAV (Gun Violence Prevention Education Center-IL Council Against Handgun Violence). Dr. Lori Ann Post, Buehler Professor for Emergency Medicine and Medical Social Sciences, and Director of the Buehler Center for Health Policy & Economics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, presented an eye-opening program on her injury control research on societal issues such as the frequency that older women are battered, and designing more effective background checks to improve gun safety. We recorded all of these virtual programs and posted them to our YouTube channel for anyone to view, increasing their reach and impact.

### *Strategy for Recruiting New Members or Engaging Current Members*

We strive to be an organization that people want to join and we keep coming back to our mission as what is important. We want to be a visible, active community group working for equity. There is a lot of competition for involvement in our area. We focus on: 1) Offering engaging, mission-based programming; 2) Having a core advocacy team (I-ACT) that researches and communicates short educational pieces on public policy issues with easy-to-follow action steps; 3) Working to maintain connections with members through social media, periodic phone calls from board members, and casual online meet-ups where people can talk about anything they want. We asked for volunteers to serve as IT support to coach members on how to get online and join virtual meetings. People talk about the digital divide: it's not only income-based or geographical, it's generational!

### *Fundraising Success*

For years our two main fundraisers have been our annual used book sale and an active social bridge group. Both of these were cancelled in 2020. We started a Paypal account and added Donate buttons to our website, Facebook, and email program announcements. We ran a virtual GoFundMe fundraiser and thanks to generous members, friends and members of the community, met our goal to raise \$15,000. Going forward we have formed two committees to explore options: What do we do about the book sale? How can we broaden our means of support?

This year presented many challenges and opportunities. We feel that as a branch it has helped us to think more about how we want to move forward.

### **Palos-Orland Area Branch**

The Palos-Orland Area Branch has been celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with several activities that not only recall our past, but also help our newer member to understand the traditions and priorities of our Branch. We began with our first in-person event in over a year with a new venue and many COVID protocols in place. Our first speaker, member Patty Watne, detailed how she and her husband brought a new product (HairyGrabster) from conception to Shark Tank (and later to Amazon and Walmart).

In October, we had a presentation of the progress of community programs and resources of the Crisis Center for South Suburbia. This Shelter for battered women and their children was the product of a 1979-80 AAUW Branch Grant. The Branch did the initial research and raised seed money for the shelter. Even though CCSS is now a separate entity, many members volunteer and raise money for CCSS.

In November we raised money for the Education Foundation and a local scholarship at our Annual Craft and Basket Auction. In February we had a Zoom presentation from an Illinois Not for Profit, Living Lands and Waters. This combined our interest in ecology and stem instruction.

In March we hosted Andi Danis and her presentation: Solving the Equation: The variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing. April will bring our Annual Fundraising Dinner with our guest for the night Leslie Goddard portraying Eleanor Roosevelt. In May we will have our annual Banquet honoring our 50<sup>th</sup> year as a Branch.

Due to COVID our STEM program Math/Science Conference for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls organized by Mary Schoenheider, and staffed by Branch volunteers, has been postponed. The You Be Chemist Challenge, that our Branch has hosted in the past will be virtually. Our Women's History Essay Contest for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will go on this year with fewer participants than usual.

### **Riverside Branch**

Our branch continued to comply with all public health standards for in-person meetings during the pandemic. During Women's History Month in March we hosted a virtual presentation by Illinois Humanities Council Scholar Marlene Rivero who re-enacted the role of "Ann Bradford Stokes: African American Civil War Nurse."

In September we hosted an Ice Cream Social at the Riverside Library and distributed bookmarks with a calendar of upcoming events. Candi Grace hosted our annual December Party with a Purpose at her home. At this event we continued the tradition of collecting cash donations and paper goods for our local domestic violence shelter, the Constance Morris House.

Our annual Aunt Diana's Fudge Fundraiser was a continued success due to the efforts of member Chris Zogas and small business manager Patty Miglore. Income generated from this fundraiser supports 2 scholarships awarded to local high school students and gift certificates for the winners of our 4<sup>th</sup> grade Women's History Month poster contest. Kathleen Lipinski was nominated as an AAUW Education Foundation Named Gift Honoree.

### **Rockford Area Branch**

Our Branch is dedicated to involvement with the community and community partners. We feel that our members value those connections and their importance in helping to make our city a better place. Our programs reflect that interest (meetings featuring K-Fact, a support group for young women, a panel featuring three newly elected women in area government, a Human Library event at Rockford University, a trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and a celebration of Title IX at Rockford University).

We have added a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair to the Board and have adapted our Scholarship awards to help those in STEM fields but also those who are in greatest need and who are succeeding despite challenges in their lives. We are thrilled that the Rockford Women's Suffrage Plaza, a project of thirteen women's and civics groups in Rockford the last three years, recently was named as Public Art of the Year by the Rockford Area Arts Council.

### **Schaumburg Branch**

An important initiative in our 2021-2 branch strategic plan this year is to: Infuse AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion toolkit into branch programming and interest groups. We are making great strides; here are some exemplars. In our Celebrating Women Interest group, we reviewed the life/work of Frida Kahlo, the results from the AAUW Latina initiative, and the life/work of Mamie Till. In our book group we read/discussed *Just Mercy*, *Every Day is a Gift*, and *Susan, Linda, Nina and Cokie: The extraordinary story of the founding mothers of NPR*. In our general meetings we did a deep dive into the DEI Toolkit; joined our library to discuss *The Color Complex - The Politics of Skin Color in a New Millennium* and *Vanishing Act*; and are anticipating the face-to-face conversation with Melissa Isaacson, author of *STATE: A Team, A Triumph, A Transformation*.

In addition, our successful fall mum sale and spring flower sale allow us to increase our donation to the AAUW neediest funds. Finally, we were so excited to distribute "pay day" candy bars with a message about Pay Equity and AAUW on March 15!

### **Waukegan Area Branch**

We featured two women as speakers in February and March, our Illinois State representative and our Illinois State Senator. Our membership Chair, Janet Scherman, used our newsletter to urge seasoned members to contact new members and those they haven't been in touch with recently.

For fundraising, Nann Hilyard's quilt raffles continue to be a big hit. Erika Nicketakis developed a covid safe book exchange she called GOGO, and our holiday party was developed to encourage donations. We also continue to sell gift cards from Scrip which is a reliable, continuing fundraiser.

## **Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch**

2021 marks the 65th Anniversary of our branch. Our Celebrate 65 projects included marching in the Glen Ellyn 4th of July Parade and the Glen Ellyn “Scarecrow Rows”. The scarecrow was an elegant lady with a “Celebrate 65” cake.

Linda Hirshman, author of, “Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O’Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg went to the Supreme Court and changed the World” presented the January branch program on these remarkable women. This Zoom program was attended by 100 including members from other branches.

The February Branch program presented via Zoom, “Leslie Goddard, Votes for Women: the 72 year struggle for Women’s Rights” was attended by 43. Another timely program, “How to improve conversations on Race and Racism” presented by Jennifer Kelly of COD was our March program attended by 38 via Zoom.

Our Film Group Chair, Dr. Anne Hanley was named 2021 Northern Illinois University of Illinois Board of Trustees Professorship. Ann is the author of two books and has been recognized as a leader for improving the climate for women on campus. Once again, we awarded scholarships to four high school senior girls to attend COD.

Our April branch program was a lively presentation by Katy Slivovsky, “Ten easy ways to be more LGBTQ Friendly and why it matters — A Zoom program attended by 37.

This year marked the appointment of Marilyn Mauritz, our Chair of DEI. Marilyn has been attending the Glen Ellyn DEI committee meetings.

Our September Branch program via Zoom was, “Imagining a Different Life: The power of young adult novels”. Former branch member, Michele Bacon, author of “Life Before” discussed how literature helps kids imagine lives different from what they are living.

October 8 marked the date of our branch Fall Fundraising Walk with 25 participants. The highlight of the Fall Leadership Conference was Deanie Brown’s enlightening program on “Implicit Bias”. Our October Branch Program featured Paula Johnson Purdue who spoke about her commitment to passing the ERA.

Several branch members traveled to Milwaukee on November 30 to honor Branch member Frankie Robinson’s father in law who was the first registered African American architect in Wisconsin. The ceremony was held at the Milwaukee Fire Department Administrative Building which was renamed the Alonzo Robinson Milwaukee Fire Department Administration Building.

In lieu of our Winter Banquet, we held “Winter Gatherings” at members’ homes to watch Dr. Monica Reyes, a National AAUW Fellow Recipient who discussed her project: “Shelter Rhetoric: Understanding Narrative Pathways and Assemblages of the US Asylum Process”.

Throughout the year, our STEM Chair Fran Kravitz the creator of her patented “Science Girls on the Go” distributes science kits that she created to two specially constructed Mailboxes for children in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn.

A busy year with a growing membership thanks to the efforts of Nancy Possinger and Jean Lindsey, our membership co-vice presidents.

## **Southern District**

### **Decatur**

As soon as members were vaccinated for the coronavirus, we returned to face-to-face branch meetings, mostly at a safe church location. We felt more members (15 to 20) would attend rather than trying to ZOOM. Our programs included:

- Spring Luncheon in May and “Mask Off” celebration in June, little did we know that wouldn’t last! Fall membership in September brought in box lunch, all enjoying the social interactions with members!
- Member presentation in September of “The Lost Art of Dress” about the rise and fall of the Dress Doctors. What effect this had on women!
- Presentation of a member’s book in October, “Charging a Hat or Coat”, the story of the journey to achieve suffrage. It features research on many women in the suffrage movement (1848 - 1920).
- Speaker from a domestic violence center in December, listing all the needs of these women.

Our theme for the year seemed to reflect women’s status as dependents.

### **Morton**

We were fortunate to meet in person throughout our 2021-2022 year. Excellent programs included:

- an address by Andrea Klopfenstein, the first female City Engineer in Peoria,
- Bradley University Professor Angela Weck’s presentation regarding Russia’s Global Reach,
- Tiffany White, the Executive Director of the Dirksen Congressional Center in Pekin Il, and
- Celebration of Women’s History Month with a visit from Elizabeth Cady Stanton, portrayed by Laura Keyes.

Our branch found ways to be active in the community while fundraising by volunteering at the Morton Pumpkin Festival and the Morton Fine Arts Association Summer and Winter Concert Series. We also tried something new this year by hosting a weekend “Visit with Santa” and a photo mini session. While these fundraising events require a lot of initiative on the part of our members, consensus is that working together and having a presence in our community are important aspects in the continuation of our chapter.

### **Pekin**

2021 was a challenging year for all of us. Changing Covid restrictions impacted everything we did.

- We began the year with Zoom branch meetings featuring programs on the Pekin Coalition for Equality and Drones and their use in agriculture.
- Our annual fundraiser in March was postponed due to Covid.
- In April via Zoom, we honored our scholarship winners and recognized those girls maintaining a 4.0-point grade point average throughout their high school career.
- In May, we were able to meet in person and heard from our local representative from the National Association of Women Business Owners.



- In August we planned two fundraisers for September. Our annual used book sale was held in conjunction with the popular Marigold Festival, and we were able to raise enough money to fund our operations for the year. Our Spring Style Show was held in September as well. Proceeds from it will fund our scholarships in the Spring.
- We finished out the year with in-person meetings featuring programs on the History of Rock Music in the surfing years and a program about the local PBS television celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year. Our culminating activity was a Christmas tea.
- We continued our in-person meetings with programs featuring two members talking about their travels in Vietnam and a presentation from the local county health department.

Overall, despite the uncertainty of the pandemic, we felt very good about our activities and participation in Branch activities.

## **Peoria**

Programs for the Peoria branch featured the following women presenters:

- the Executive Director of Peoria Promise, a tuition reimbursement program for Illinois Central College students. Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, 4300 students have benefited with a 92% completion rate. Almost half of the students are first in their family to attend college; 68% wouldn't have attended without the program, and 90% stayed in Central Illinois because of the reimbursement program.
- the Superintendent of the Peoria County Sheriff's office gave an overview, bringing us up to date on some policies, procedures, and application of them. She also addressed some of the new legislation and answered questions about how it related to Central Illinois.
- a retired teacher who spent several weeks in Poland in the summer of 2019 as a teacher of English as a second language. It was an interesting and positive experience for the four women. This recent program topic was especially timely with the large number of Ukrainian refugees fleeing to Poland.

## **Rock Island-Moline**

We sponsored 3 scholarships that were awarded to women students at St. Ambrose University who are majoring in STEM fields, for a total of \$2200.

Our programs are centered around our AAUW Mission and included the following:

- A presentation by Army Major General Mari K. Eder, retired, who discussed her book entitled 'The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line' which tells the remarkable stories of 15 little known women heroes from World War II.
- Dr. Rita Gurung, Chemistry Department Chair at St. Ambrose University, spoke about her fascinating life story, "From Nepal to STEM Scientist".
- Michelle Lillis, Athletic Director at Davenport West High School, discussed 'Title IX and Its Enforcement'. This topic was especially on point since the state of Iowa just passed a law prohibiting female transgender students from participating in school sports. She also spoke about discrimination she encountered in the past, while coaching girls' sports in Illinois.

Our April meeting brought Maria Ontiveros, Moline Hispanic Business Woman and Founder of Mercado on Fifth, and Anamaria Rocha, Director of Mercado on Fifth who spoke on 'Being a Hispanic Business Woman and the Pay Gap of Hispanic Women'.

## **College/University Relations**

### **Ruth Holst, Director**

There are currently 15 College/University (C/U) Members in Illinois compared to 13 at this time last year. Here is the list:

Augustana College – Rock Island  
Blessing-Reiman College of Nursing – Quincy  
Bradley University – Peoria  
College of Lake County – Grayslake  
Elmhurst College – Elmhurst  
Governors State University – University Park  
Illinois College – Jacksonville  
Illinois Wesleyan University – Bloomington  
Millikin University – Decatur  
Monmouth College – Monmouth  
Moraine Valley Community College – Palos Hills  
North Central College – Naperville  
Northwestern University – Evanston  
Rockford University – Rockford  
University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign – Urbana & Champaign

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will be held on May 24-26, 2022, as a virtual conference. Spread over three days, this year students will be able to register separately for the May 24 workshop and the May 25-26 conference.

As always, I am available for consultation on all matters pertaining to our College and University Members. My contact address is: [holstruth@gmail.com](mailto:holstruth@gmail.com)

## **Public Policy**

### **Paula Purdue and Tracey Sherman-Falcon, Co-Directors**

This year has been an interesting legislative year. Starting with a General Assembly that met only via Zoom that resulted in many AAUW supported bills being passed, then to a very historic veto session that finally passed the Repeal of Parental Notice of Abortion, making Illinois 100% pro-choice. Then ending with a very shortened Spring session that virtually none of our supported legislation passed.

Not only were we busy and productive legislatively, we had many opportunities to be an active advocate for AAUW.

- August 2021, we hosted a virtual training on how to navigate the ILGA website.
- October 2021, we participated in reproductive rallies across the state, made a road trip to Rockford to visit the Suffrage Sculpture and participated in an informative presentation by Women Employed on the Paid Family & Medical Leave Act.

- November 2021, seven members from across the state wrote thank you notes to legislators that supported the PNA repeal.
- March 2022, nine members participated in a collaborative virtual lobby day with IL Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, Equal Hope, Women Employed, and Shriver Center advocate for Paid Family Medical Leave and support funding for preventive cancer programs.

**Ensuring Success in Schools Law HB 3223 passed.** This requires appropriate, trauma-informed responses to the needs of every student.

**Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act SB 818 passed.** This updates the curriculum in schools (that choose to teach Health and Safety education) to be age appropriate, medically accurate, all inclusive, culturally appropriate, and trauma informed.

**HB 155 passed.** This allows SNAP, WIC, and TANF recipients to use their benefits to purchase menstrual hygiene products and diapers.

**HB 641 passed.** This requires that public universities and community colleges make feminine hygiene products available at no cost in bathrooms.

**HB 156 passed.** This provides that menstrual hygiene products shall be made available in bathrooms of every school building that are open for student use in grades 4 through 12 during the regular school day.

**HB 310 passed.** Provides that feminine hygiene products be available free of charge at all homeless shelters that provide temporary housing assistance to women or youth.

**Equal Pay Day Resolution HR 220 passed.**

**Repeal of Parental Notice of Abortion HB 370 passed.**

**HB 012 passed.** Provides that an employee of a school district, public university, or community college district who has been employed for at least 12 months and who has worked at least 1,000 hours in the previous 12-month period shall be eligible for family and medical leave under the same terms and conditions as leave provided to eligible employees under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

**HB 816 passed.** Amends the Employment Teacher School code provides that, in addition to birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, sick leave shall also be interpreted to mean the acceptance of a child in need of foster care.

Unfortunately, our Paid Family Medical Leave bill SB 835/ HB 5029 did not pass, but our virtual lobby day created a momentum that we will continue to work diligently to pass in an upcoming session.

We are happy to advocate in our roles as Public Policy Co-Chairs for AAUW IL .

**Our mission does not happen without public policy!**

## **Bylaws and Policy**

### **Andi Danis, Director**

Another quiet year, and I spent it poring over the AAUW-IL State Bylaws and Policy Book. In fact, you were presented with a set of proposed changes to our State Bylaws for your comments and eventual vote to approve (or not!) The changes I recommended were mainly to give our Board more flexibility as we operate in different ways and with different challenges. We needed to include virtual meetings and electronic voting processes, among other things, as a result of the pandemic. And as all of us are experiencing, we needed to adjust to declining membership and a difficulty in filling leadership positions. I also tried to “clean up” the document by making sure wording was aligned across the document, and reflective of how we are operating and wish to operate in the future.

I did the same with our Board Policy Book, which was approved by the Board at our February meeting and is available on the State website.

I also encouraged branches to undertake a review of their own bylaws, and to reach out to me with questions or for assistance in this process, and some of you did. I was pleased to work with many of you and to be able to provide recommendations which might help your branch run more smoothly.

As another AAUW year draws to a close, I think we can celebrate how we stayed connected and involved during two long years of a situation that we have not seen before; we learned new ways to continue the work of AAUW and that we are more resourceful than we might have thought. We are, after all, AAUW!

# MEMORIAL REPORT

## February 2021 – February 2022

<b>BRANCH/MEMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>
ALTON-WOOD RIVER BRANCH Elizabeth Starkey	September 12, 2021
CHICAGO, INC BRANCH Nancy Burton Susan Messinger* and ** Jeanne Bunnell	May 2, 2021 May 3, 2021 August 10, 2021
DECATUR BRANCH Sara J. Jerome***	June 15, 2021
ELGIN AREA BRANCH Anne Marblestone** and***	October 5, 2021
ELMHURST AREA BRANCH Florence “Betsy” Bliss Aldred*** Mary Eleanor Wall**and***and ***** Virginia Curran**	June 21, 2021 February 21, 2022 February 23, 2022
LOCKPORT BRANCH Emily Christian***	January 29, 2022
NORTHWEST SUBURBAN BRANCH Irene Sylvester	January 30, 2022
PALOS-ORLAND AREA BRANCH Irene Reggio Lois Dion	April 8, 2021 December 1, 2021
PEORIA BRANCH Margaret Kohlhase Mary Jean Bowman**	March 24, 2021 April 7, 2021
ROCKFORD BRANCH Regina Potts Amy Nyman Claire Lindem	November 18, 2021 November 19, 2021 February 2022
SPRINGFIELD BRANCH Wanda Riseman	December 17, 2021
WHEATON-GLEN ELLYN BRANCH Mary Jane Marsh Maurlea Babb** Diane Serb	April 11, 2021 June 22, 2021 October 2021

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



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THE AAUW BOARD OF DIRECTORS WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND  
THANK THESE VISIONARY ILLINOIS LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

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Barbara M. Wyne	Barbara Zeitz	

For more information on joining the AAUW Legacy Circle, please contact AAUW's Planned Giving Department at 202.785.7766 or [planned-giving@aauw.org](mailto:planned-giving@aauw.org).