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SAVE THE DATE! - ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION May 6 & 7

Lisle-Naperville Hilton Doubletree Hotel

Get ready for the long awaited return of an in person State Convention. Please mark your calendars and watch for details in Connection, LINK, and the state website.

Also, watch for future special editions of Connection that will provide the details to once again vote online for our annual election of state officers and some changes to our State Bylaws.

Just a reminder to Branch Presidents: You should have received an email (from Lisa Cherry) requesting you to report (to Amy Green) a list of those members who passed away. The Memorial Report is a very special article in our State Convention Book.

Member leaders, did you read in Membership Matters that you can register for “Virtual Office Hours” (Connect2AAUW) on the national website? Thursdays at 3:30 ET, you can have your questions addressed with national staff, but you do need to register in advance.

It's not too late to show off your branch's achievements and commitment to our mission. If you would like direction or guidance to join the 5 STAR program, please contact Tremayne Parquet at parquett@aauw.org.

The new Community Hub, including the revamped Membership Service Database, will soon be up and running on the national website. Look forward to a new experience and two webinars to introduce and train us to take full advantage of all the available information.

Agent of Change

This prestigious award is presented annually to an active member of AAUW-IL. The Nominee should be an outstanding member who has actively promoted change within the AAUW organization or local/national community.

Selection of the best candidate for the award will be based on the candidate's actions or level of support for one or more of the following activities:

- Identifying or bringing attention to a societal problem that disproportionately affects women and girls,
- Addressing a problem related to the economic security or professional advancement of women,
- Addressing an issue related to gender equity or diversity in public education or equal access to specific occupations,
- Taking action related to civil rights or social justice issues affecting women and girls,
- Taking actions that improve the ability of a state or local affiliate of AAUW to address issues of gender equity and civil rights with the community,
- Taking actions related to mission-oriented issues that raise the visibility of AAUW in the local community or at large.

Nominations may be initiated by any Branch member, Branch Board of Directors or Branch President. Multiple members may be nominated from a single Branch. Branches are encouraged to resubmit nominations, if their nominee was not selected for the Agent of Change Award that year.

A committee of the AAUW-IL Board of Directors will review the nominations. The Agent of Change will be announced at the Annual State Convention held each spring.

A nomination form may be found at aauw-il.aauw.net. Nominations must be emailed no later than March 1, 2022 to Marcia Wherry, Southern District Director, mjwherry@aol.com

Questions about the Agent of Change Award or about the process of submitting an application may be addressed to Marcia Wherry.

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul continues to fight for the ERA in court, with support from the AAUW. Raoul, along with the attorneys general from Nevada and Virginia, announced in a Jan. 3 statement that they had filed a brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia in their lawsuit asking the federal government to recognize the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The appeal comes after a lower court dismissed a challenge to the 1982 deadline to ratify the ERA. Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA in January 2020, meeting the threshold for the number of states needed for ratification, but the U.S. Archivist refused to publish the amendment to the U.S. Constitution, citing the 1982 deadline.

AAUW joined a coalition of more than 50 groups in filing an amicus brief in the attorneys general's case. In addition, AAUW Illinois joined ERA Illinois and other state organizations in filing a separate amicus brief. Raoul noted in his statement that Congress first considered an equal rights amendment 100 years ago. "One hundred years is far too long to wait for equality under the law," he said, "and I am hopeful 2022 will be the year that equal treatment for all Americans is enshrined and acknowledged as part of our nation's Constitution."

Read the full brief and other briefs at <https://eracoalition.blog/2022/01/11/amicus-briefs-filed-in-support-of-the-era/>

In fun news, the ERA Project (Columbia Law) and VoteEqualityUS (purple ERA bus), printed an updated pocket Constitution. Check it out at mprint.pub.



[Oral Argument Not Yet Scheduled]

No. 21-5096

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, et al.,
Plaintiff-Appellants,

v.

DAVID FERRIERO,
in his official capacity as Archivist of the United States,
Defendant-Appellee,

Branch News & Notes

Peg Gallagher, **Schaumburg Branch**, passed along this note from Ken Olsen, about his late wife Barb:

Hi Ladies,

I received a very pleasant surprise this week that I appreciated and wanted to share with you since

introduced and had passed SR0883, a resolution to honor Barb and an express sympathy at her passing. It included putting it in a suitable form for presenting to the family. It was a complete surprise to me, but certainly made me feel good to have her remembered in this way in the official record of the State Senate.



The **Rockford Branch** presents “**Did Black Lives Really Matter in Early Illinois?**” via Zoom on Monday, February 21st at 6:30 PM. Public historian and educator, Caroline M. Kisiel will deliver this program through the Illinois Humanities Council Road Scholar Program and it is free and open to the public. If you would like to participate, please send your email address to fe.marcus@att.net and you will receive a link several days prior to the program. Please join us in exploring Illinois history.

The Illinois Humanities Council Road Scholar Program is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Illinois General Assemble through the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA), as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed by speakers, program participants, or audiences do not necessarily reflect those of the NEH, Illinois Humanities, IACA, our partnering organizations, or our funders.



AAUW-IL District 5

Educational Opportunities Fund

15th Annual Lunch with Fellows

11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 9, 2022

at Lambs Farm--Rte. 176 & I-294/Illinois Tollway Libertyville, IL 60048

Honorees:

- **Natasha Ferguson, American Fellowship, Rush Univ., Ph.D., Integrated Biomedical Sciences**
- **Monica Reyes, American Fellowship, DePaul Univ., Publication, Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse**

MENU: Cup of Soup, Choice of Salad (Chicken Caesar/Chopped Chicken), Rolls & Butter, Dessert, Coffee/Tea/Soda

COST: **\$25**...includes tax & tip

DEADLINE: Reservations must be received by **April 1**

Make your reservation by sending this form (below) with a check for \$25 - payable to *Deerfield Area AAUW* - to Kay Madden, 425 Village Green, #304, Lincolnshire, IL 60069, to arrive no later than Friday,

Bring a guest!

Hope to see you at this outstanding annual event!

Full Name of Attendee:

AAUW Branch/Organization:

Menu Choice:

.....



A Prescription for Equity - Dismantling Systemic Racism in Health Care in Illinois



Thursday, March 3, 2022
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Via Zoom

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtfuurpj4sGNb6BFqZ6ptHgrHaVRo3B9vr>



The Honorable
Mattie Hunter
Majority Caucus Chair
State Senator
Illinois' 3rd District



The Honorable
Doris Turner
State Senator
Illinois' 48th District



The Honorable
Camille Lilly
State Representative
Illinois' 78th District



Valeria Cueto
Vice President, Equity,
Diversity and Inclusion
Memorial Health

Please join AAUW and this esteemed panel to discuss HB 158, the comprehensive reform bill signed into law in 2021 to create a more equitable and inclusive health care system in Illinois.



Public Policy Program of the Springfield, Illinois Branch of the American Association of University Women

At this public policy event sponsored by the **Springfield Branch** of AAUW-IL, we all have the opportunity via Zoom (click on photo above to register) to learn more about this important reform effort. Presenters include Senator Mattie Hunter and Representative Camille Lilly, the women who led the legislative effort in the House and Senate. It will be moderated by AAUW-IL Public Policy Co-Chair Paula Purdue.



You are invited to this February 23, 2022 AAUW **Jane Addams branch** program, 7:30 - 8:30 pm, **Career Development Path: From Investigative Reporter to Master Teacher.**

Experience Alba's story - previously an investigative reporter for Telemundo Chicago, with seven regional Emmy awards, she is now a recipient of an AAUW Career Development grant to complete a Master's degree at UIC in teaching Spanish. She is a passionate advocate for media literacy and will encourage more Latina students to pursue a career in journalism.

Link for advance registration (required): https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpf-2vrzgiHdoHkEqMgaWIh_AfawbkyUvg

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the meeting.

If you have any questions about this online program, contact Kate Skegg, program registrar at aauwJaneAddams@gmail.com

If your branch has a program you'd like to share, please [email Jennifer Urish](#) by the 14th of each month.

Our Mission

Gender Equity and Economic Security

Our Values

***Intersectional
Inclusive
Intergenerational
Empowering***

Our Focus

***Economic Security
Education
Advocacy***



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