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## President's Message

July is the start of the AAUW fiscal year and this year it also means the start of a new State Administration. As your new State President, I am looking forward to meeting with as many of you as possible over the next two years. I am also excited by the opportunity to address the challenges which are facing women and girls and reminded of how critical our AAUW mission is.

First of all, a thank you to Lisa Cherry, and the prior State Board for their leadership over the last two years during a very difficult time for our branches and the country. A number of those Board members will be returning. We also have new Board members who will bring representation from branches across the state. Let me introduce you to these Board members.

VP of Programs – Becky Glimco (Naperville) and Peg Gallagher (Schaumburg)

VP of Membership – Nann Blaine Hilyard (Waukegan) and Amy Green (Springfield)

Finance Director – Carolyn Schjelderup (Rock Island)

Public Policy Chairs – Tracey Sherman-Falcon (Aurora) and Paula Purdue (Chicago)

District Directors – Sue Topp (Naperville) and Jennifer Urish (Belleville branch)

AAUW Funds Director – Laura Desmarais (Wheaton – Glen Ellyn)

ByLaws and Policy Director – Andi Danis (Aurora)

Nominating Chair – Carol Heisler

College / University Director – Ruth Holst (Chicago)

Website Manager – Leslie Sulla (Wheaton – Glen Ellyn)

Some congratulations are in order:

Our **2022 Agent of Change Recipient is Deanie Brown**. This award is the most prestigious award from AAUW-IL and is awarded yearly. Read more about Deanie in this issue. To find out more about the award and prior recipients, go to our website at [AAUW-IL.org](http://AAUW-IL.org)

**Title IX celebrated 50 years in June.** AAUW was instrumental in forming a coalition that led to this critical legislation that gave girls equal opportunities in education and sports. The AAUW.org website has links to several programs / webinars that highlight the work of AAUW after WWII and into the 1960s to make sure that women and girls had the support and opportunities to succeed. The result over the last 50 years is unprecedented success for women in education, sports, and employment.

However, there is still further work to be done. This includes the need to enshrine the ERA Amendment in our US Constitution and to assure that all women have access to the healthcare they need and freedom of choice over their own healthcare decisions.

I would like to recognize the **Lombard branch** for their 50+ years of contributions at the National, State, and local levels. From Lombard came a National President, a State President, and monetary support for national and local scholarships.

**Save the Date! Fall Leadership Development Conference – September 24, 2022.** More information about the Conference will be coming from your District Directors soon. Last year's conference was so successful as a Statewide gathering on Zoom that we will continue that tradition this year.

The State Board held its initial meeting on July 9 and we identified the initiatives we will be working on over the next year. As we flesh out these plans, I will share them with you. We are ready to hit the ground running as we work to support the AAUW mission of gender and pay equity for women and girls through education and advocacy and increasing opportunities for women in leadership. To that end, Branch Presidents will be receiving a survey on July 20th. Please take the time to complete it--we are gathering contact information for each branch and trying to get an idea of how we can help.

Thank you for all you do in your communities to support this critical mission.

I have set up a dedicated email address for all things AAUW. Please feel free to contact me at [aauwilpres@gmail.com](mailto:aauwilpres@gmail.com)

Warm regards,

Donna Jean Simon

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## Public Policy

It has been a frustrating June/July with disappointing Supreme Court decisions. However, in Illinois, we have much to be grateful for. Abortion is legal in Illinois. Be sure to thank your legislators when they are in

forget to let folks know you're with AAUW. Wear your AAUW shirt, button, or put the AAUW logo on your protest sign! We'd love to share your activism, so take a picture and send to [shermanfalcon@hotmail.com](mailto:shermanfalcon@hotmail.com).

Stay active and engaged! Our mission does not happen without Public Policy!

Paula Purdue and Tracey Sherman-Falcon

Public Policy Co-Chairs, AAUW IL

Susan Becker, of the **Downers Grove Branch**, wears a black funeral veil and holds a sign reading "Here lie women's rights Jan 22, 1973-June 24, 2022 R.I.P." at a rally at the Henry J. Hyde Judicial Office Facility in Wheaton. About 140 people rallied in support of women's fundamental right to privacy and bodily autonomy on Friday, June 24, 2022. (John Starks/[jstarks@dailyherald.com](mailto:jstarks@dailyherald.com)/John Starks)



### Congratulations to Deanie Brown, Agent of Change Awardee!

Each year AAUW-IL presents the prestigious Agent of Change Award to an outstanding member who has actively promoted change within the AAUW organization or local/national community. At the state convention in May we announced Deanie Brown of the Springfield Branch as the 2022 awardee. Deanie exemplifies the qualities of an agent of positive change in her professional work, her leadership roles in

has worked to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and to uphold Title IX. Her expertise extends to the areas of sexual misconduct prevention and response, disabilities accommodations, and culturally competent conflict resolution. She currently serves as the Chief Diversity and Equity Officer for the Illinois Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. In recent years Deanie has shared her special skills with AAUW by serving as Co-President of the Springfield Branch, Director of Diversity Equity & Inclusion at the Branch level, Director of College/University Relations at the Branch and State levels, and by developing and presenting programs at AAUW-IL fall conferences and at state convention. During the 2021-22 year, Deanie opened her Raising Awareness for Change and Equity (R.A.C.E.) discussion series to AAUW members statewide and expanded her presentations on DEI for Illinois branches. Her expertise and involvement with current issues has encouraged AAUW members to be more aware of history as well as the development of our responses to our changing world.

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## Meet the Naperville Branch

### Naperville Branch Issues Action Team

[AAUW Naperville \(IL\) Area](#) transitioned its public policy efforts from a single person writing monthly email summaries of relevant legislative updates to one where a team educates and advocates. This transition has happened over the last four years.

The formation of a team-based approach to public policy within the branch, with a chair that is on the board as an appointed position, enabled the creation of public policy goals for the branch, which both aligned to AAUW national goals and yet were more specific for our state and area. These goals also became part of the overall branch goals, in the attempt to put our mission-based public policy goals at the center of all that we do.

Within the team, we established regular meetings. The meetings with the team enabled us to all agree on goals, to set an educational calendar for the branch, and to respond to new developments in our area. A team member each month writes a blog post which educates our branch on the pre-agreed public policy area and outlines steps we can all take to work toward the policy we support. When our branch was meeting in person, pre-pandemic, this included bringing an ipad to our branch meetings so people could sign up for the Two Minute Activist on the spot. The blog posts were placed on the “issues” page of our website and also emailed to members and shared, via link, on social media.

In the 2021-22 fiscal year, our branch I-ACT team added monthly advocacy actions to our branch calendar. Advocacy actions have ranged from writing a letter to school board members using a provided template, to reproductive justice rallies, to webinars and virtual lobbying on

also serve as representatives on several coalitions, alliances, and working groups to amplify our efforts. Our efforts to advocate with our ally and coalition partners are much more powerful.

If your branch is interested in this model for public policy engagement, we suggest these steps:

- Appoint a leader for public policy for the branch and recruit interested branch members to the team.
- Set a regular meeting schedule for the team.
- Make specific and accomplishable goals for the team with regard to public policy. Make sure these are integrated to branch goals.
- Involve the team members in education efforts for the branch, whether through emails, blog posts, or social media posts.
- Make sure your outward marketing efforts reflect the importance of public policy goals to others.
- Attend meetings and get to know the leaders of like-minded groups in your town, such as League of Women Voters, NOW, NCJW, Pride, University groups, Diversity groups. See if it is possible to jointly meet with those leaders to plan one joint advocacy event in your area.

Submitted by:

Elizabeth Carroll

I-ACT Chair

AAUW Naperville

## Branch News & Notes



The **Jane Addams Branch** invites everyone to a Zoom meeting "Women at The Hague" presented by Gloria McMillan, Research Associate at the University of Arizona.

When: Thursday, Jul 21, 2022, 07:30 PM Central Time

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/ztZitceiprTsuHNETyFTKVnx1ksTPcVicrFtx>:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.

Women at the Hague was an International Congress of Women conference held at The Hague, Netherlands in April 1915. It had over 1,100 delegates and established an International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace with Jane Addams as president.

Questions? Contact Kate Skegg: [aauwjaneaddams@gmail.com](mailto:aauwjaneaddams@gmail.com)

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

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