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## **98TH STATE CONVENTION:**

### **TOGETHER AGAIN WITH A POWERFUL AGENDA!**

From start to finish it was a joyful gathering of members from around the state who were thrilled to be meeting in person after three long years! We also rejoiced in having so many attending the convention for the first time and hope that they found the experience to be worthwhile. Attendance was great on both Friday night and Saturday and we ask that you take the survey that arrived in your inbox this past week. We want to learn from your comments and hope that we can make each new convention better than the last.

Gloria Blackwell, our CEO, provided us with a comprehensive update of all AAUW is doing to build equity for all. I was impressed with the breadth and relevance of speaker and panel topics from social media and democracy, diversity and inclusion, our state public policy and the ERA, branch development and community outreach and challenges to intellectual freedom. We installed our newly elected board members and had the great pleasure of honoring wonderful Deanie Brown with our Agent of Change Award.

Strong speakers, relevant program content, scheduling, good facilities, catering, flawless audio visual, registration and administration all require planning and volunteers to execute. I am so grateful to Program VP's Sharon Lee and Becky Glimco and the entire convention team for their time, creativity, attention to detail and grace under pressure.

Huge thanks to all of you!

Lisa



To follow-up on the high-energy convention, AJ Conroy is providing some links for members to take back to their branches.

1. a video of my presentation is available here: [www.eraillinois.org/update.html](http://www.eraillinois.org/update.html)
2. The AAUW two-minute activist for the ERA - [www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/era/](http://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/era/)

### Public Policy Training Reminder

On Monday, May 16 2022 at 6:00pm we are beginning our Zoom Series:

Many of our Public School Boards are being targeted by folks who oppose our AAUW Values. The issues range from teaching age appropriate health/sex education, allowing all students to succeed regardless of their sexual orientation and book banning. This series of training will assist AAUW members to form coalitions with other like minded organizations to form 'chat groups' to become a part of the solution to this unfortunate series of problems.

Please join us! AAUW Public Policy is the action that supports our VALUES!

Join the Zoom Meeting on May 16th with this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84364346285>

We hope to have this program recorded , so if date does not work for you, please listen to the recording.

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Purdue at [paulapatchwork@gmail.com](mailto:paulapatchwork@gmail.com)

## Branch News & Notes

### AAUW - Our Early Illinois Story

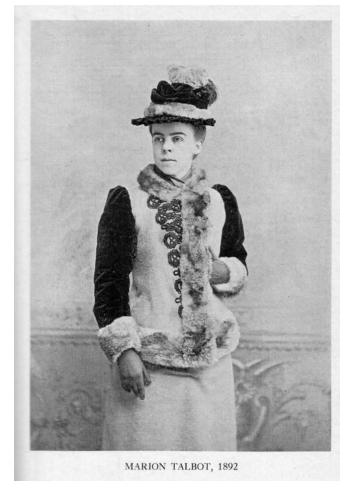
Join the **Jane Addams Branch** online on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 07:30 PM Central Time for a presentation about the extraordinary women who founded the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae, the forerunner of AAUW in Illinois. Hear about their links to Jane Addams and the settlement movement in Chicago. Learn about trailblazers like Florence Kelley and Grace Abbott and their pursuit of social justice for immigrants and others from the 1880s to the 1920s.

Our presenter will be Ruth Holst of the Chicago Branch. Ruth serves on the state AAUW Board as the College & University Relations Director. She also serves on the national Governance Committee of AAUW.

Register at the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtcO2ppjktH9ROWBHWPtngMJi6NRbnERbw>

Questions? Email: [aauwjaneaddams@gmail.com](mailto:aauwjaneaddams@gmail.com)



## Riverside Branch Membership Idea

As membership co-chair of the **Riverside branch**, I have been thinking about how to get more diverse younger members. Graduates with Associates Degrees can become members, but we have never had a member from this category yet.

As you know, Give a Grad a Gift was discontinued. I asked AAUW staff why the program was discontinued and was told that the gift membership recipients rarely, if ever, turned into members the following years. They had data to indicate that this program was not working to recruit new members so it was eliminated when the organization was downsized.

How to get more diverse, younger members? We offer programs at our local public library but the public rarely attend and nobody has joined. We have conducted a Women's History Month Poster Contest for elementary students for over 25 years, and also have awarded scholarships at our high school, but again, these projects aren't bringing in any new members. I was also thinking that we would like to build a relationship with our local community college. I discussed with my branch board that maybe we could launch our own Give A Grad A Gift Program with our local community college, but ensure we target student leaders. The Board thought this was a good idea.

When our membership renewals were sent out in May, Give a Grad a Gift was added as a category soliciting donations in addition to the usual categories. A few of our members gave small donations to this category. We collected enough money to cover the branch and state dues for two people so I started to work on my idea in the fall.

As membership co-chair I also planned to utilize the Shape the Future program. We encouraged people who are qualified for membership to attend a meeting and join. Indeed, this year we have signed up two new members. That qualifies us for one gift membership. Marrying these ideas together, the branch board agreed with my idea that we would approach the local community college, which is Triton, and ask the faculty there to identify a recent May graduate who was a student leader, and who is staying in the area. We wanted someone who would stay in the area, not be going on immediately to a 4-year degree, and who could attend our branch meetings.

I contacted Triton's College/ University liaison, Antigone Sherris. I told her about my idea and the criteria that the student had to meet to be awarded a gift membership to our branch. With her help, the faculty at Triton in the fall identified a student from the Engineering tech program. Antigone gave me the student's name and college email address.

With my Board's approval, I sent the awardee a congratulatory email indicating that she was selected by the Triton faculty as a student leader and she would receive the honor of being our first Riverside Branch

been able to find who at Triton would include an article in one of their newsletters that goes out to students. Since this is a new initiative it is definitely a learning process. We also had communication issues because the awardee used her Triton email account which she only read infrequently after graduation and I wanted her permission before trying to get any publicity.

I think this idea has good potential especially if your branch already has connections at your local Community College that can help you. If possible, work with the community college when the student is graduating, or in the summer, so the awardee can be part of the branch starting in the fall. You may want to develop an application process and have a branch selection committee. Timing of insuring a free gift membership and having funds to cover State and local dues also has to be considered. Good luck and let me know if it works for you.

Diane Balin, PhD  
Riverside Branch AAUW  
Membership Co-chair  
Public Policy Chair  
Immediate Past President

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## **2022 Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Used Book Sale**

We are pleased to announce that we are resuming our popular book sale. Proceeds from this sale benefit our Scholarship Fund for local girls. We just began our book collection in April and have already collected over 3,500 books. With 5 collection sites in May we are confident that you will have over 8,000 books to chose from. Please join us to pick out some Great reads!

No entry fee! Easy parking! Saturday - Books \$10/Bag

June 23 - 9 AM - 8 PM

June 24 - 9 AM - 8 PM

June 25 - 9 AM - Noon

**\*\* New Location \*\***

Briar Glen Elementary School, 1800 Briarcliff Blvd, Wheaton (North off of Butterfield Road)

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***Our Mission***  
***Gender Equity and Economic Security***

***Our Values***  
***Intersectional***  
***Inclusive***  
***Intergenerational***  
***Empowering***

***Our Focus***  
***Economic Security***  
***Education***  
***Advocacy***



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