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President's Message

Traditionally, Fall has been the time of year when we have crisp nights, changing colors on foliage, bright days, longer nights, and a return to the classroom. Since I loved school and learning, it was always an exciting time for me – seeing old friends, having new school clothes, learning new things. Hopefully, you also are experiencing good memories and a return to a norm for you however, that might play out. It also means the start of our branch meetings and the opportunity to meet in person again.

I recently visited the Springfield branch for their branch kick-off meeting. It was a pleasure to see old friends, meet members I had not met previously, and learn about the many innovative branch activities. I also enjoyed spending time with the co-Presidents, who shared great ideas and best practices.

One of my goals is to visit as many branches as possible and meet as many members across the state as possible. If you would like me to speak at one of your meetings, I have a short presentation that I can share about national and state activities. However, I would also be pleased to simply attend a meeting and enjoy the opportunity to interact with each branch and its members.

Remember, while we are nonpartisan, we are NOT values neutral. That means that it is critical that we support candidates who support the mission and vision of AAUW. It also means that we should be working to Get Out the Vote (GOTV) in our districts. Please make sure that you study what each of your candidates stands for and choose the one that most clearly supports gender equity for women and girls and opens pathways to women's leadership. As an individual, consider working for the candidates you support or working at polls or helping people register to vote. All of these activities are within the values of AAUW. (However, you cannot align AAUW with any one candidate or party – that would be partisan and we do not support that).

Finally, plan to attend the Fall Conference on September 24!

Donna Jean

aauwilpres@gmail.com



Register NOW for the Fall Conference--it's a Zoom meeting and everyone is invited! The link to register and all the details are on the website.

[Register Now](#)

IMPORTANT NOVEMBER 2022 ELECTION MESSAGE FOR AAUW MEMBERS

Illinois is a state that is currently very supportive of AAUW VALUES. Our legislature and Governor strongly support choice, women's equality, and public education. As AAUW members we have worked hard to pass the Reproductive Health Act, the Repeal Parental Notice of Abortion, and the Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act.

Our November elections could reverse all the hard work we have done.

The races that could change Illinois' support of AAUW VALUES are Governor and two IL Supreme Court Justice seats. The following counties have elections for IL Supreme Court Justice: McHenry, Lake, DeKalb, Kane and Kendall in District 2 and DuPage, Will, Kankakee, Iroquois, Grundy, LaSalle and Bureau in District 3. It is important for AAUW members to be educated on our candidates for Governor and IL Supreme Court Justices in District 2 and 3.

Women's lives and future will depend on the choices made in these counties.

AAUW members should seek out candidates that are pro choice, believe in strong, high quality public schools, advocate freedom from violence, expanding voting rights, and firmly believe in separation of church and state.

See AAUW Public Policy Priorities here <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

Reach out to your AAUW IL Public Policy Co-Chairs, Paula Purdue paulapatchwork@gmail.com and Tracey Sherman-Falcon shermanfalcon@hotmail.com, if you have any questions.

Our AAUW mission does not happen without public policy!

Paula Purdue
Public Policy Co-Chair
Chicago Branch

*I'm a feminist that believes in gender equity and have spent my career as a lobbyist and my retirement trying to make that feasible. I love to travel and talking with people.
I serve as public policy co-chair for AAUW IL because I have an interest, ability and can do it!
Contact me when you have questions regarding the legislature, political process, and what you can do help us make our mission happen!*

Tracey Sherman-Falcon
Public Policy Co-Chair
Aurora Area Branch
shermanfalcon@hotmail.com
630-234-6091

*I am an activist, that enjoys traveling, gardening and reading. Giving back to my community through service is important to me.
I serve on the board for AAUW IL because it's the one position that scratches my activist itch.
Don't call me, call Paula. She really likes to talk.*

We're on the web! Because some of you have asked, the current and past issues of *Connection* are now on the website. There's also a link to subscribe to *Connection*--in case you have branch members who aren't receiving it every month.

AAUW IL Website

Branch News & Notes

Meet the Morton Branch

While there are definite benefits of living in bigger cities, our Morton Branch AAUW enjoys the level of engagement we are able to have in our smaller town. Our membership covers so many areas with local teachers, librarians, businesswomen, rotary members, and various community committee members. We have even been fortunate to have multiple Mayors' wives as members.

This is a vibrant group of women who are very involved in the community and help bring recognition to AAUW's mission. We have been able to increase our visibility in town through our Scholarship and programs fundraising. We don our AAUW shirts and serve the community by working at the Morton Pumpkin Festival food tent, providing and serving concessions during Morton's Arts in the Park, and baking fresh cookies we serve up during intermission for one the Winter Concert Series shows.

Last year, we added a new fundraiser: Photos with Santa. It was a sold out event! GEMS club is another way we are able to share the goals of AAUW. Each month a committee of our members provide a STEAM program for girls in grades 4-7 at the Morton Library. Our local newspaper frequently runs articles on these events, stating who AAUW is and sharing a write-up and photo from our program. Our Morton branch also has a member who facilitates Start Smart workshops at a local college. Through fundraising at local events and our educational opportunities, we are able to meet a variety of people, recruit new members, and raise an awareness of AAUW in our town.

Paige Hadsall
Morton Branch AAUW



The Center Stage Theater is located at 1665 Quincy Ave. Ticket information will be

Naperville Branch invites you to UnCensored!

Are you concerned about book banning and censorship in public and school libraries? Learn from a panel of experts what actions you can take right now to protect intellectual freedom in your community. Sign up to attend the Uncensored free webinar on **Tuesday, October 25, 2022, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

More information and registration is on the Naperville AAUW website.

Naperville Website

Hold the Date! The **Chicago Branch**, in partnership with the **Jane Addams Branch**, is once again planning a Zoom meeting for late morning on **November 12th** to showcase three AAUW Fellows and Grantees. More details will appear in the October *Connection*.

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.

Our Mission:
Gender Equity & Economic Security

Our Values:
*Intersectional
Inclusive
Intergenerational
Empowering*

Our Focus:
*Economic Security
Education
Advocacy*



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