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President's Message

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Fall Conference on September 24. If you want to revisit some of the information or access information from a break-out you couldn't attend, please visit the [AAUW-IL website](#) where you can find a wealth of resources from the conference. We appreciate the work that the 1948 Team is doing to further STEM education for young women.

This is an especially critical time for women, so it is especially important that you exercise your right to vote. National AAUW has a number of excellent resources to guide you in your decision-making. The [AAUW Action Fund has put out a document](#) that discusses the issues and gives you insight as you make your decisions. Please use it and share it with your branch members and family and friends. We want to make sure that what we stand for is protected for future women and girls.

On October 19, 2022, at 3 PM CT, AAUW is putting on a webinar about the upcoming election and the issues of importance to AAUW members. [Click here to register.](#)

The State Convention will take place on May 5-6, 2023, in Peoria. We hope that you will put this date on your calendars now and plan to attend. See more information below on how to register and save your hotel room (all of which are suites).

Remember as you revise your branch bylaws, you have a resource in Andi Danis. She should review your revisions before they go to a vote, so that you are in compliance with any changes that might have occurred since the last bylaws approval. Also, at the State level, we archive all branch bylaws, so please send them to Andi when they have been revised and approved.

If you need to update your website, please contact Leslie Sulla for guidance. Many websites are not up to date, which doesn't help you recruit new members. If you need help with your social media

Donna Jean

aauwilpres@gmail.com

AAUW Action Fund Voting Resources

Be sure to have your AAUW voice heard and **VOTE** on November 8, 2022! Everything AAUW is fighting for is on the ballot this mid term election! Do your research and support candidates that are pro choice, believe in strong, high quality public schools, advocate freedom from violence, expand voting rights, and firmly believe in the separation of church and state.

Our mission does not happen without Public Policy!

Thanks for all you do!

Tracey Sherman-Falcon and Paula Purdue
Public Policy Co-Chairs, AAUW IL



2023 AAUW-IL, 98th State Convention

Friday - Saturday, May 5 - 6, 2023

Embassy Suites by Hilton East Peoria Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center, East Peoria, IL

Following on the heels of our very successful face to face AAUW-IL convention in 2022, plan to join AAUW friends and colleagues from around the state at the 2023 AAUW-IL Convention in East Peoria. The rooms at the Embassy Suites are truly a suite with a separate bedroom, a fold out sofa in the front room, and a shared bath in between. Very conducive to bringing a friend to the conference. We are lucky enough to be using the 2022 prices. You can use this link today to reserve your room [AAUW IL Convention 2023 Embassy Suites](#) or you may call 1-800-EMBASSY and use the code AUW.

Please mark your calendars and watch for additional details in Connection and on the AAUW-IL website. You won't want to miss this annual meeting where together we advance the AAUW mission.

In Case You Missed It...

AAUW has extended the membership renewal grace period deadline in Community Hub to extend through November 30th. This ensures continuity of membership for those who are still renewing, but does not change their expiration date for 2023 (ie: if you have an expiration date of 6/30/22 and you renew on 11/1/22, your expiration date will be 6/30/23 - if you renew 12/30/22, which is past the grace period, your expiration date will be 12/29/23).



Coalitions / Collaborations / Contributions

As we strive to work with like-minded organizations to advance our mission, it is important to keep in mind some guidelines.

Coalitions exist between AAUW and outside / external organizations who overlap with our issues for a limited period for time with a specific purpose, such as calls to action, rallies, encouraging members to contact legislators or write letters. These coalition partners can change over time depending on the issues addressed. Some coalition partners have been NAACP, ACLU, NOW, League of Women Voters, domestic violence groups, and even unions such as the Illinois Federation of Teachers. However, it is important to double check that we remain nonpartisan while supporting actions that address our mission.

Collaborations exist between and among sister branches inside or outside the state. This is encouraged to maximize our impact and to maximize community involvement. Together, we can make a difference.

Contributions (to coalition partners or other entities) cannot be made in the name of AAUW or AAUW-IL unless approved by the state board. However, we do not intervene in anyone's right or ability to make individual contributions to whatever causes they want to support. The issue is tying the name of AAUW to unapproved activities.

put up on the [website](#) for reference.

Meet the State Board

AAUW Funds Director

[Laura Desmarais](#)

As Funds Director, my responsibility is to be a liaison between the Branch and National when it comes to giving. This includes working with Branches and individual Members to understand Nationals recommended giving categories. If you have questions about donations to National, contact me.



Finance Director

[Carolyn Schjelderup](#)

As finance director, I maintain records of all financial transactions for the AAUW-IL, Inc. I am also charged with meeting all state and federal requirements such as filing Federal IRS 990-N, and filing with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General AG990-IL in the state of Illinois. More recently, it has been my responsibility to learn as much as possible about the workings of the new Community Hub on our national AAUW website. While I cannot claim to know all there is to know about the Community Hub, I am happy to assist any of you with questions or problems relating to the Hub or other finance issues. Together we can find the answers!



Can new members find you?

Websites are important communication tools to allow current and prospective members to learn about your branch. Are you interested in launching a new branch website, or updating your current site?

Reach out to me with questions!

Let me help your branch:

- Show you how to start a new website with AAUW's Wordpress platform

with aauw.net)

- Mention other free platforms you can use to start a new branch website

[Leslie Sulla](#)

AAUW-Illinois Website Manager

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 Rockford Branch

Here's what the Rockford Branch is proud of--AAUW Rockford Scholarship Committee Fundraiser for 2023 awards. The goal was for five \$1000 scholarships, but the members and friends donated enough funds for six \$1000 awards!

The 2022 awardees continue to send heartfelt messages expressing their shared commitment to helping other women who are aspiring to higher education. They appreciate your confidence in their academic commitments. Having a tangible show of AAUW support gives them knowledge that a home team of women are cheering for them .

In 2023, AAUW will be awarding scholarships to regional high school students who are entering a STEM career that is under-represented by women. We will also award Post-secondary LAS and Vocational students who are finding success in college after overcoming financial difficulties and other life challenges.

This year, the Funds total for Scholarships is an amazing \$6960.00! This includes every donation for scholarships made from May 2022 through the Lawn Party on July 17, 2022.

Supporting AAUW's mission of education for women and girls!!

The **Chicago Branch**, in partnership with the **Jane Addams Branch**, is once again hosting a virtual meeting via Zoom to showcase three AAUW Fellows and Grantees. Join us from 10:30 to noon on **Saturday, November 12, 2022** for this enlightening series of presentations.

This year's presenters include:

- Xiao (Angel) Bohannon, recipient of an American Fellowship, is currently a PhD candidate in Human Development and Social Policy at Northwestern University.
- Monica Reyes, received an American Fellowship to study writing, rhetoric and discourse at DePaul University.
- Chinyere Oteh, received a Career Development Grant to pursue a Library Science degree at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, which she plans to complete in December 2022.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Contact chicagoauw@hotmail.com for more information.

Register in Advance

AAUW SPRINGFIELD, IL BRANCH

RACE/R.aising A.wareness For C.hange and E.quity Series

Do You Support Body Autonomy, Women's Rights, and Racial Justice? Does That Make You "Woke?"

"The word "woke" has moved from its rhetorical roots in the Black community to become weaponized today to pass legislation undoing much of the social justice progress benefitting marginalized populations."

Staci M. Zavattaro of the University of Central Florida writes on how "woke" became weaponized in the culture wars.

blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog



I promise you won't get sleepy – You Will Stay Woke!

Please join us for a deep, lively, and important discussion:

Click below to register in advance.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

6:30 PM

FIRST, PLEASE READ THESE TWO ARTICLES FOR DISCUSSION:

My Washington Post subscription allows me to share access to great journalism. Check out this gift article, at no cost to you: "Woke" is a term that everyone's been using but few have gotten quite right. <https://wapo.st/3xi2lYg>

From The New York Times, How 'Woke' Became an Insult, On the perils of the euphemism treadmill. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/17/opinion/woke-politically-correct.html?smid=em-share>

Deanie Brown, Diversity Chair

Register in Advance

**The Jane Addams Branch invites you to a Zoom Meeting:
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - Our Path**

When: Oct. 27, 2022 07:30 - 8:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join us in this engaging program and explore resources available to expand your understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion. Dr. Donna Kiel will share her personal development story and present DEI resources available at DePaul University: Courageous Dialogues, Build Diversity course of study and her RISE (Reflection, Inquiry, Self-Awareness, and Empathy) Micro-credential Program which supports educators with strategies to engage students and integrate racial equity in teaching.

Participation will help you develop your DEI path to increased understanding and empathy. Please share this information with other members or anyone who would be interested.

Program speaker: Dr. Donna Kiel, 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.

Advance registration is required in order to receive the Zoom login for the meeting.

have any questions, please contact Kate Skegg, program registrar at aauwJaneAddams@gmail.com

Register in Advance

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

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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