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## President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope that your holidays were blessed and everyone had safe and easy travels.

Many of us resolve to change bad habits, create new ones, or engage with our family and friends in new and more fruitful ways. Hopefully, you will include AAUW in your resolutions. We need to renew our commitment to support equity for women and girls.

This can take many forms. Contact your legislators to make sure they support legislation that takes into account the health and well being of women and girls, provides opportunities in employment, education, and leadership, and stresses diversity, inclusion, and belonging. Use your fundraising to support scholarships at your local schools. Get involved in supporting librarians and library boards so that books are available for all children in your community. Engage with your Public Policy committee members to be sure that you are aware of opportunities to influence legislation that is related to the AAUW mission. Go to the National website and see all the resources that are available to you and use these resources for your branch. Choose book club books that help us gain a greater understanding of the lives of women and those who may be different from ourselves.

AAUW is so much more than a social organization, although we have made many friends over the years who share our values and life experiences. We are also a mission-based organization with so many opportunities to make a difference in our communities. I hope that you join together with all the many branches and members in Illinois to resolve to make 2023 the year of women and of AAUW.

Donna Jean Simon, [aauwilpres@gmail.com](mailto:aauwilpres@gmail.com)

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## 2023 AAUW-IL, 98th State Convention

Friday evening thru Saturday, May 5 - 6, 2023

Embassy Suites by Hilton East Peoria Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center

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 foldout 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 have secured 2022 prices which include access to meeting rooms and other support for the convention.

You can reserve your room today at the following link: [Reserve Room Now](#) Or you may call: 1-800-EMBASSY and use the code AUW (this is correct, 3-digit code).

Please reserve your room and watch for meeting registration and agenda details coming later in the Connection newsletter and on the AAUW-IL website. You won't want to miss this annual meeting where together we advance the AAUW mission. Reach out to Becky Glimco or Peg Gallagher AAUW-IL Program, [aauwilprograms@gmail.com](mailto:aauwilprograms@gmail.com) for questions.

## Reserve Room

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### Agent of Change

Start thinking about who in your Branch has made a commitment to bring about positive societal change. Agent of Change nominations will open soon. Nominating materials will be sent to Branch Presidents before the Presidents' Zoom meeting Thursday, January 19th. Please email Sue Topp or Jennifer Urish at [aauwildist@gmail.com](mailto:aauwildist@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

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## Branch News & Notes

### Jane Addams Branch Program

**You are invited to a Zoom Meeting: Edith: The Rogue Rockefeller McCormick**

**When: Feb. 2, 2023** 07:30 - 8:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

**Join us in this engaging program with author, Andrea Friederici Ross.** This book is the thrilling story of a daughter of America's foremost industrialist, John D. Rockefeller, is complete with sex, money, mental illness, and opera divas—and a woman who strove for the independence to make her own choices. Rejecting the limited gender role carved out for her by her father and society, Edith Rockefeller McCormick forged her own path, despite push-back from her family and ultimate financial ruin.

Advance registration is required in order to receive the Zoom login for the meeting. After registering, you

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## Register

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Let's Talk Illinois Public Policy with Rep. Collins

The **Chicago Branch** invites you to join them for a virtual event with Illinois House Representative Lakesia Collins, Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. via zoom

Chicago Branch member and AAUW-IL state lobbyist, Jenni Purdue, believes Rep. Collins is an amazing legislator for the 9th District. Rep. Lakesia Collins will join us for a zoom program to share her views and what it is like being an African American women legislator in Illinois. We have asked her to share her views on various legislation AAUW has supported. AAUW-IL Public Policy Chair, Chicago Branch member, and former lobbyist, Paula Purdue will moderate the discussion and Q and A. We hope you will join in the discussion and please invite a friend or colleague to participate.

For more information, contact [ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com](mailto:ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com) or <https://chicago-il.aauw.net/>.

## Register

*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: Intersectionality Inclusive Intergenerational Empowering

Our Focus: Economic Security Education Advocacy



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