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President's Message

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE AAUW AND OUR BRANCHES! Join us on May 5 and 6 in Peoria for this year's State Convention. Gloria Blackwell, our CEO, will be joining us for both days. Let's make sure every branch is well represented. This is your opportunity to meet her and talk with her about your concerns and your accomplishments.

The State Convention is your chance to meet with colleagues across the state and gain new ideas and perspectives and learn leadership techniques. Our Program VPs have created a wonderful program that you won't want to miss. Our theme is **Everyone is a Leader for Equity**.

If you haven't already done so, make sure you sign up today for our upcoming **State Convention on May 5 and 6**, in order to take advantage of the reduced rate.

Our speakers include not only **Gloria Blackwell**, but also **Sharmili Majmudar**, who is the Executive Vice President of Policy, Programs, and Research for Women Employed. Her focus is on growing women's economic power and advancing pay equity.

Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat has served as Superintendent of Peoria's Public Schools since 2015 and was named a Regional Superintendent of Distinction by the Illinois Association of School Administrators for her leadership, communication, professionalism, and community involvement.

Dr. Sheila Quirk- Bailey, president of Illinois Central College, is committed to providing educational opportunities for women across the state.

Elsa Vazquez-Melendez, M.D. is assistant dean of Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria and will enlighten us on the inequities in medicine.

Dr. Jennifer Robin, an author, former Dean of a School of Business, and coach and consultant, will moderate a panel discussion – Changemakers!: Leadership. Members of the panel include Representative **Nabeela Syed** of the 51st Illinois District, **Crystal Owney, MBA**, an AAUW Fellow and AAUW member, and **Emily Glimco**, a Community Relations Specialist for the Village of Roselle.

Not only will you gain knowledge, perspectives and ideas, but you will also be able to share your ideas and successes with your colleagues across the state in our breakout sessions. You will eat great food, be able to

Go to [AAUW-IL Convention](#) to register and to read the complete agenda and bios of our speakers. There is much more happening and you will not want to miss this chance to celebrate AAUW – Illinois and your branches.

Donna Jean Simon, aauwilpres@gmail.com

We hope that you will be joining us on May 5 - 6 for the
AAUW-IL 98th Annual State Convention,
Everyone is a Leader for Equity,
at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria.

Early Bird Registration is available until April 15.
Hurry--that's today!

In addition to hearing from an accomplished group of speakers, this year you will hear CEO Gloria Blackwell live and in person. Click below to go to the AAUW-IL Convention Site--everything you need is there--registration link, convention schedule, and speaker Bios. Please reach out to us with any questions.

[Peg Gallagher and Becky Glimco, AAUW-IL Program Co-chairs](#)

Register Now!



**YOUR
VOTE
MATTERS**

You should have received an email with voting instructions for the AAUW election. You will be asked to vote on significant changes to the AAUW Bylaws and the yearly changes recommended to

- Revising the wording describing AAUW's charitable purpose to align with large NFP verbiage and appeal to a broader range of corporate sponsors.
- Eliminating the requirement for 60 days' notice before board approval of a dues change.
- Having board officers elected by the board, not the membership.
- Eliminating any reference to conventions when discussing meetings of the membership.

What National has done in their complete review of the Bylaws is to update their procedures and language and streamline their operations. The changes they have made are consistent with the way that most large NFPs govern and conduct business. Having thoroughly reviewed these proposed changes, and finding nothing alarming or inconsistent with best practice, the AAUW-IL, Inc. Board voted unanimously to recommend passage of these proposed changes in the upcoming election.

Voting began April 5 and runs through May 15. However you decide to vote, just please vote!

We have once again included the links to the full proposed documents below:

Take a moment to read the details of the bylaws change and the brief rationale for each change [HERE](#). Review the Public Policy Priorities and send your feedback to National by clicking [HERE](#).

If you have any questions please contact me, and as always, I am happy to help branches with bylaws reviews and revisions.

Andi Danis, Bylaws and Policy Director
AAUW-IL, Inc.

Voting is open for the slate of officers for the AAUW-IL State Board. Use [this link](#) to vote now--voting ends May 4, 2023!

Slate of Nominees

Carol Heisler, Nominating Committee Chair

- **Membership Vice President(s):** Lori Switzer and Danielle Byron
- **Secretary:** Caroline Jones

Branch News & Notes

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch is collecting book donations for the **2023 Used Book Sale**.

Desired categories are fiction, non-fiction, children's, young adult, fine art and better books. Please no textbooks, reference, self-help or spirituality books.



Books may be dropped off at Forest Glen Elementary School, Glen Ellyn, May 1-

Health Track Sports Wellness, Glen Ellyn
and Wheaton Sports Center, Wheaton IL.

Book sale dates are June 22-24 at Forest
Glen Elementary School, 561 Elm St, Glen
Ellyn, IL.

Details on www.BookSaleFinder.com

From Elaine Fisher:

Please join MDA's Statewide Advocacy Day!

Moms Demand Action IL - Statewide Advocacy Day

Date: Tuesday, May 16

Time: 10:00 AM

Where: Illinois State Capitol Building 401 S 2nd St Springfield, IL 62701
To sign up click [HERE](#).

*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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AAUWILConnection@gmail.com

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