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## ***connection***

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### **President's Letter**

The State Board just completed our July in person planning meeting. We renewed our commitment to the branches in terms of funding, event planning, and support. There will be more information forthcoming as we finalize various plans and activities.

One event that we hope will be on your calendars is the Regional Meeting in St. Louis on October 19 – 21. This is the first time in five years that we will be able to meet members from other states and branches. The days will be filled with opportunities to learn and share best practices, and more importantly, to gain a greater perspective on AAUW, an organization of which we are so proud to be a part.

Several branches have been supporting initiatives that underscore our commitment to help women and girls gain guidance and experience. Heather Thompson of the Morton branch presented information about their GEMS program at the state convention in May. Many of you have asked for more information about that program. Judy Griffin and Heather have put together a tutorial on how to establish such a program in your branch which is included in this issue and will be available on the state website as well.

Another exciting program is Naperville's I-ACT committee which engages members and collaborators with mission-based activities in the community. Shoshana Frank and her colleagues have created a how-to manual and examples of activities they have led in their community, so that your branch can also begin such an activity. This information can be accessed below and on our state website. Thank you to both these branches for their commitment to these projects and kudos on their successes.

[Donna Jean Simon, President](#)

AAUW-IL, Inc.

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**Central States Regional Conference ~ October 19-21, 2023**

- AAUW-IL announces the **2023 ARCH Award!** To encourage attendance at the Central States Conference each branch can help send their administrator, president or her designee to St. Louis. The amount of \$400 will be reimbursed after the event is complete. To qualify for the stipend, applicants will need to complete the Illinois request prior to the conference. The request form will be available on the AAUW-IL website after July 30.
- Small-group sessions will take place during the conference where ideas and dreams will be shared (swapped) in a casual setting. These are **Swap Shops!** Each state will be given a time and day to present projects, programs, and ideas from their branches and state - - a total of over 64 new ideas possible from our eleven states! Visit the [AAUW Missouri website](#) for the application and apply before August 15th.



# REACHING NEW HEIGHTS *together!*

**AAUW Central States Regional Conference**

October 19-21, 2023 · St. Louis, Missouri  
 Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch

*Featuring*

**Gloria Blackwell**  
 CEO of AAUW  
 Keynote Speaker



**Lisa Maatz**  
 Public Policy &  
 Organizational Consultant  
 Keynote Speaker



**Plenary and breakout topics:**



- Voting Rights and Issues
- Reproductive Rights and Women's Health
- Equity and Inclusion
- Succession Planning and Leadership
- Women's Economic Security · Pay Equity
- AAUW and The Future!

**Full conference details at [aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net)**

**ADVOCATING UNDER THE ARCH**



# CONFERENCE DETAILS

## AAUW Central States Regional Conference CELEBRATING AAUW - REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER!

October 19-21, 2023 • St. Louis, Missouri

Welcome: 1:00pm (Central) on Thursday, October 19th  
Farewell: Noon on Saturday, October 21st

### Venue

#### Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch

Room rates \$221 per night for 2 queen beds (max. occupancy 4).  
Additional \$27/night for covered parking. Call Drury at 314-231-3003 or visit [DruryHotels.com](http://DruryHotels.com) for more information.

### Registration

#### Conference Registration

Early bird registration: \$200/person before September 16th (\$225 thereafter). **Registration forms available July 1st.** Registration fee includes conference meals.

### Bonus

#### Swap Shop Sessions

Casual sessions to network and share great ideas. Branches and states can submit their favorite projects, ideas, and programs. Top selections will be presented at the conference and others shared on websites.

Join your fellow AAUW members from 11 central states for three days of education, inspiration, great ideas, fun, and friendship in exciting *St. Louis!*



Contact: Karen Francis • [karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com](mailto:karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com) • (314) 223-4235

**INSPIRE • LEARN • IMPACT • CELEBRATE**

### From the State Board

AAUW-IL has a new **Finance Director**--please update your records.

Ruth Holst, Finance Director of AAUW-IL  
645 N. Kingsbury Street, Apt. 1709  
Chicago, IL 60654  
202-610-9718 phone  
[holstruth@gmail.com](mailto:holstruth@gmail.com)



program ideas, ask questions and more by becoming an active group member. If you believe you are not receiving the group emails, please notify Sue Topp, [aauwildist@gmail.com](mailto:aauwildist@gmail.com).

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We are grateful for the new **Public Policy** chairs that have accepted their new role and thankful for those that are continuing on. We believe our mission cannot happen without Public Policy. Connecting, engaging, and activating members to advocate for AAUW is crucial for equity for women and girls. We have made great strides in Illinois, but there is much more work to do! Thank you for taking on the challenge with us.

Please send us your updated Public Policy Chair's information. Including your Branch, Name of PP chair, Email, and Phone number to [shermanfalcon@hotmail.com](mailto:shermanfalcon@hotmail.com).

Thanks for all you do!

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

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*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](mailto:AAUWILConnection@gmail.com)

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