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## *connection*

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### **From the President**

It's that time of year when thoughts return to the days of starting back to school whether as a student, teacher, or parent. There are opportunities to support our school boards and library boards. We can also support civics education in our classrooms, so that our children understand and learn about U.S. history. We need to make sure that all students understand the importance of being well educated in the humanities, science, and languages, so that we have informed voters and protectors of our democracy. To all of our members who are current and past educators – whether as teachers, librarians, or administrators, thank you for protecting our democracy.

To those who are observing Rosh Hashanah -- Happy New Year. In the Jewish tradition, this holiday marks the birth of creation, and we are encouraged to remember how beautiful, various, and blessed is the world we have been given. This sentiment is one we can all support. However, when many are suffering in many parts of the world because of earthquakes, floods, and fires, we also need to be vigilant about protecting our natural resources.

In the past, I have spoken about collaborations with organizations that support our mission and values. Recently, I visited with two branches who are examples of these kinds of collaborations. The Rock-Island – Moline branch interacts with their sister organization in Davenport – Bettendorf, Iowa, by hosting each other at branch meetings and get-togethers. The branch also has a close relationship with the NAACP, through one of their members and contributes support to events in the community. For many years, they have contributed to middle school girls in math and science learning through collaborations with area schools as well as a STEM scholarship fund.

meets monthly to discuss strategies to manage interpersonal relations and DEIB. They are currently using The Dignity Index which “focuses on language that is spoken in moments of conflicts, because it is not that we disagree; it’s how we disagree.” Many of their programs include speakers who are in state and local government, and provides members with an opportunity to learn from and influence elected officials.

Wishing you all a pleasant September,

[Donna Jean Simon](#)

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

- **Registration is now open!** Visit the [AAUW Missouri website](#) for registration forms, hotel details, and schedules. EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS ON SEPTEMBER 16th!
- 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 is available on the [AAUW-IL website](#).
- 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!



ARKANSAS · ILLINOIS · INDIANA · IOWA · KANSAS · MICHIGAN · MINNESOTA · MISSOURI · OKLAHOMA · TEXAS · WISCONSIN

# 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  
224-610-9718 phone  
[holstruth@gmail.com](mailto:holstruth@gmail.com)

**Branch Presidents & Administrators** - Are you receiving emails from the AAUW-IL Branch Leaders group? Look for [AAUW-IL Branch Leaders] in the subject line. Share your 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).

## Branch News

The **Quincy Branch** is celebrating 100 years of service with a banquet on October 6th at 6:00pm at the Quincy Holiday Inn.

One hundred years ago, twenty-two charter members founded the American Association of University Women Quincy Branch of the national AAUW organization. The branch currently funds scholarships for women who attend John Wood Community College and Quincy University and meets on a regular basis during the academic calendar year. The group boasts a long list of accomplishments and has left a legacy in Quincy. One former branch president became the state's first female state senator, Lillian Schlagenhauf of the 36th Congressional District, was elected to the Illinois Senate on November 4, 1952. [Read more...](#)



Have you seen the Barbie movie? It's still in local theatres or alternatively, you can now stream it at home on Vudu or Amazon Prime as a rental or movie purchase.

Did it change your mind about the roles of men and women? Does Barbie discover her true purpose? How would you describe the movie? A gleeful escape, a laugh-out-loud comedy, or a battle cry? What aspects did you enjoy most? Music, costumes, production, or drama? What was the influence of director/co-writer, Greta Gerwig?

Is Ken a helpless pawn in BarbieLand? Here's an interesting article:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/our-devices-our-selves/202307/what-the-movie-barbie-gets-right-about-male-psychology> Learning to be "Kenough."

Join us for a discussion on **Wed Sept. 20 at 7.30 pm** Central Time. This is an Event by **AAUW Northwest Suburban - IL and AAUW Jane Addams Branch - IL**



please contact Kate Skegg, program registrar at [aauwJaneAddams@gmail.com](mailto:aauwJaneAddams@gmail.com)

## Register in Advance



Join us for a fun night at our **Noche Latina!** fundraiser on Friday, September 22, 2023, 6:00 - 10.00 p.m. You cannot miss it!

Location: San Marcos Mexican Grill, 5678 Arlington Dr. E, Hanover Park, IL 60133

Our annual fundraiser will include good food, mariachi music, special guests, a silent auction, and raffle prizes. Reserve your tickets now at Eventbrite! Cost \$60.

Dare to Dream: Get Educated! was founded with the help of an AAUW National Community Action Grant and members from local Chicagoland branches, to work with middle school and high school Latinas, to encourage and support their efforts to graduate from high school, to encourage college enrollment, and to introduce them to college and career role models. The first annual conference was in 2009 at Elmhurst College with 100 middle school girls & their moms. Since then thousands of girls & mothers have benefited from our organization.

The most recent conference was at College of DuPage in Jan 2023, and annual STEM conferences will also resume for the first time since Covid in Spring 2024 at Triton College.

If you would like to donate please write a check, payable to Dare to Dream: Get Educated!

mail to: Dare to Dream: Get Educated! PO Box 328, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Dare to Dream: Get Educated! is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization (EIN 27-1778698)

Submitted by Dare to Dream board member, Kate Skegg.

## Reservations

# NAEP is hiring

In-school data collectors are needed for national assessments at grades 4, 8, and 12, January 29–March 8, 2024.

Enter your contact information at <http://www.WorkNAEP.com> to be notified once applications are available.

Westat: EOE, including disability/veterans



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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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