

[View this email in your browser](#)



connection

Now that we have survived (hopefully) the change to daylight saving time, I hope you are ready to celebrate AAUW-IL. Lots of important activities are coming your way.

On March 9, [you received a ballot](#) in your email with the **slate of state officers** who will be installed at our April Convention. Your vote counts, so make sure you return your ballot as soon as possible.

AAUW-IL 100th Anniversary Convention takes place on April 19 & 20 at Elgin Community College. The registration form came out several weeks ago. **A discounted rate is available until March 18.** You can still register after that date; however, you will not be able to use the discounted rate after March 18. A link to the registration form follows.

Our Program VPs have put together a **celebration of AAUW in Illinois for the past 100 years!** You will not want to miss this Convention!

- **We celebrate branches** – this is an opportunity for your **branch historians** to show us their work. You can create a display highlighting your branch and its history and activities, or a prominent member or a project you would like to share with your sister branches.
- We welcome **Meghan Kissell**, the Director of Public Policy and Advocacy from National, who is, among other duties, responsible for the Lobby Core and our outreach activities, such as Get Out the Vote.
- **Dr. Suzanne Chod**, Professor of Political Science at North Central College, presents “Truth, Trust, and Turnout” and will give us guidance on navigating mis/disinformation.
- **Ms. Ahlam Jbara**, Chief of Staff for the IDHS Division of Family & Community Services will supplement our One Book / One State reading group. She addresses the issues surrounding

priorities.

- The ERA has still not been certified by the Archivist to our Constitution. **AJ Conroy** will guide us on what our next steps should be to make sure that the ERA becomes the law of the land.
- You will have an opportunity to **exchange best practices** in Affinity Group sessions.
- What will **the next 100 years** for AAUW-IL be? You weigh in!
- As at every Convention, you will have time to **renew acquaintances, meet new colleagues and gain insights and perspectives that can be applied in your branches.**

Be sure to register now and plan to attend our celebration of AAUW-IL. You can find a link to the Convention Schedule and Bios below.

You have another role to play in the future of AAUW – the **vote on Open Membership** will occur between April 3 and May 15. On March 28, the Jane Addams branch will host a state wide webinar on the case for expanding our membership opportunities; the registration link is below. Your State Board has voted unanimously to approve open membership. During the last vote on open membership, all Illinois branches voted to approve by 75% this membership Bylaws change; however, only 30% of Illinois members voted. We want to improve that percentage and become a leader among the states. [Here is a link](#) for more information about this important vote. Currently only 39% of women have degrees. We are losing the opportunity to engage with 61% of women who might support our mission!

March is Women's History Month and March 13 was Equal Pay Day. Women still earn only 84% of what men earn. So, a woman must work until mid-March to earn an equivalent salary to what a man earns by December of the previous year. For our sisters of color the timeframe is even worse. One way to celebrate is to contact your legislators to encourage them to support wage and benefits fairness for all workers, including doing away with salary history questions, which can adversely affect women. It is unfair and frankly un-American that women are not paid the same as a man for doing the same work.

Reminders about Upcoming Important Dates

- 3/18 Early Bird** Convention Registration ends
- 3/25 Memorial Reports** from Branches due to Carol Heisler
Branch Yearly Updates due for the Convention Booklet to Jennifer Urish**
- 4/8 Convention registration closes**
- 4/18 Voting** for Statewide Officers ends

**Each year the Convention Booklet contains information from each branch highlighting success stories, activities, and best practices that can be shared with other branches.

I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at our 100th Convention celebrating AAUW-IL!



2024 Convention Updates

Online registration is now open!

Early Bird Registration must be submitted or postmarked by March 18th. Final registration must be submitted or postmarked by April 8th.

Use a credit card and register online below, or [download the paper registration form](#) and mail a check to Sue Stauffer.

[Download the Convention Schedule](#)

[Download bios of Convention Speakers](#)

Celebrating 100 Years of Empowering Women

Register Online

Register by March 18 to get the "100 Year Celebration" for \$100 early registration fee!

Join us in Celebrating 100 Years of Empowering Women at the AAUW-IL, INC. 99th State Convention. Highlights for April 19/20 at the Elgin Community College Business Center:

- Celebrate 100 years- Share your branches stories or highlight historic material from the past 100 years or a current project on a table display.
- "Truth, Trust, and Turnout: Navigating Elections, Civic Engagement, and Disinformation" Dr. Suzanne Chod, Professor of Political Science, North Central College, will explore the relationship between political trust, polarization, and disinformation and its effects on elections and democracy.
- "Progress is Not Passive" Meghan Kissell, Senior Director of Policy and Membership Advocacy at AAUW, will share the direction of AAUW and will highlight AAUW views on key policy issues.
- "Reducing Poverty: Finding Economic Security," Ahlam Jbara, Chief of Staff for the IDHS, Division of Family and Community Services, will describe poverty in Illinois and efforts that are in place for women and children to achieve economic security.
- Legislative and ERA Updates by Jenni Purdue, AAUW-IL Lobbyist and AJ Conroy
- Dignity Index-The Batavia/Geneva/St. Charles Branch will lead a workshop on rating political speech to ease division and promote healthy dialogue.
- The Next 100 years for AAUW-IL, includes dialoguing in affinity groups and giving voice to the work of AAUW-IL ahead.

registration must be submitted or postmarked by April 8th. Use a credit card and [register online](#) or [download the paper registration form](#) and mail a check to Sue Stauffer, 1031 Seaview Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193.

2. Room reservations at Holiday Inn, \$109 + Tax. [Holiday Inn Registration Link](#) Or you may call: 1-855-797-6733 and use the code AUW (this is correct, 3-digit code).

3. Note on your registration form that you want a ½ table for your display or contact Cathy Malm aauw.il.elgin.membership@gmail.com who is coordinating the table displays.

Reach out to [Becky Glimco](#) or [Peg Gallagher AAUW-IL Program](#) with questions.

Branch News



You and fellow AAUW members are invited to the AAUW-IL program, **In Support of Open Membership**, Thursday, March 28, 7:00 pm.

Discussion moderator: AAUW-IL President Donna Jean Simon

Panelists: AAUW Lisa Cherry (former AAUW-II President)

Prepare to vote on the proposed AAUW Membership bylaws amendment that removes the requirement of a degree to become an AAUW member. This amendment will open our membership to anyone who supports our mission of equity for all women and girls through research, education and advocacy. The AAUW national board and AAUW-IL state board support this amendment.

Learn about the benefits and the importance of opening membership, and why the time is right to take this action. Get the answers to all your questions. Attendees are invited to submit comments/questions in advance to the Jane Addams Branch. Please submit any questions to: aauwjaneaddams@gmail.com

Advance registration is required. Register today

Please share this information with your branch members, especially your membership chair.

Register

The next ABCD Book Club Discussion about the book ***Forgotten Girls: A Memoir of Friendship and Lost Promise in Rural America*** by Monica Potts will be on Tuesday, March 19, at 7 pm. You are welcome to attend even if you have yet to have time to read the book.

Also, please plan to attend the State Convention in Elgin on April 19/20 - See info at <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/conferences/>

Ahlam Jbara will speak at the Convention on Saturday. She is the Chief of Staff in the Division of Family and Community Services, Illinois Department of Human Services. Ahlam has worked for over 20 years on creating and administering programs that help women and children become self-sufficient and independent and less likely to become victims of poverty. This will add more to our book talks.

All AAUW members and guests are welcome to our **AAUW Book Club Discussions**. Questions? Contact Carolheisler@gmail.com

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.

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

[RSS](#)

Our Values: Intersectionality Inclusive Intergenerational Empowering
Our Focus: Economic Security Education Advocacy



Our mailing address is:

AAUWILConnection@gmail.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).