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connection

From the President

Thanks to Sue Topp, Branch Liaison, who organized a great Fall Conference. She located an excellent speaker, Dr. Nolan Higdon, from the University of California, San Cruz. He explored the critical intersections of fake news, disinformation, artificial intelligence (AI), and electoral politics. It was interesting to see how easy it is to create images to tell the story you want told.

AAUW 5 Star Branch Surveys for 2023-2024FY are due to National. Thanks to all the Branches who have submitted their surveys. If you haven't completed yours, there might be a grace period!!

Of special note, AAUW lost a friend in Lilly Ledbetter, who passed away last week. She was a brave woman from Alabama, who sued her employer Goodyear Tire and Rubber in 1998. She found out that as a woman she made \$6,800 less than her male supervisors who did the same job. Thus the movement for Equal Pay was born. AAUW supported her law suit through the Gender Equity Fund. It took a long time. Twenty years later she stood with Barack Obama as he signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009.

With gratitude.....
AND PLEASE – VOTE!!!!

Laura Desmarais
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Vote
— It matters —

From the State Board

2025 AAUW-IL Convention | Call for Presentation Proposals

 <https://forms.gle/BZjcf96VbxQ5i5GN9>

- The 2025 convention is tentatively scheduled for April 25-26, 2025 in Springfield, Illinois.

- Whether you want to do a quick 15 minute table talk, a long 45 minute in-depth training, or something in between, share your idea for consideration using the link above.
- The priority submission deadline is November 30th.

Kathy Battee-Freeman (Springfield) & Jo-An Takamoto-Sabonjian (Waukegan) | Co-Vice Presidents – Programs

Public Policy

AAUW IL – Fall Conference

The conference had a strong emphasis on being prepared to participate in the November 5, 2024 election. Dr. Nolan Higdon provided the Keynote “Manipulated Realities: Fake News, AI, and the Future of Electoral Politics.” In it he explored the critical intersections of fake news, disinformation, artificial intelligence (AI), and electoral politics. A Public Policy update was shared by Karen Kortsch and Ken Olson. They included a reminder of things that Branches can and cannot do relative to elections as well as current AAUW priorities that can guide our choices for the coming election. An overview of the current situation in Congress was provided as well as reminders to vote on election day or by using one of the early voting options. Vote by mail is open now and early voting is or will soon be open in all areas of the state. Links to useful election information include:

- Illinois State Board of Elections - <https://www.elections.il.gov> Here you can verify that you are registered to vote, register if needed and find important election dates.
- AAUW Policy Center - <https://www.aauw.org/act/policy-center> Here you can find information on AAUW priorities, the Two – Minute Activist and an Advocacy Toolkit.
- AAUW Action Fund - <https://aauwaction.org> Here you can find Voter Guides, Voting records of members of Congress and the another link to the Two-Minute Activist.

Another presentation was on the Dignity Index by Rosie McVay of the Geneva-Batavia-St. Charles Branch. She shared what the index is and plans for upcoming workshops to make it widely available. You'll find a recording of the full conference atp <https://bit.ly/3YedWuO>

News on the ERA front

One of the longstanding priorities of AAUW is assuring equality for all. Legislatively a needed action is inclusion of the Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution. We always appreciate having other well-respected organizations join in this effort. Recently the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (“ACOG”), along with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, American Urogynecologic Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and the Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, issued a [Statement](#) acknowledging the Equal Rights Amendment (“ERA”) must be published as the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution to ensure “exceptional and respectful obstetric and gynecologic care is accessible to all.” In doing so, these organizations, who represent OB-GYNs and fertility experts across the country, urged the Biden/Harris Administration “to do everything in their power to finalize the Equal Rights Amendment so that the promise of equal rights under the law, including the right to access comprehensive reproductive health care such as abortion, may be realized.”

A Recording of interest

In case you missed it, the very timely Jane Addams Branch AAUW program recording of “Truth, Trust, and Turnout: Navigating Elections, Civic Engagement, and Disinformation.” is now available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkIT7gThSV4> . It is an interesting and informative presentation that is especially useful in the current political environment.

Remember to REV up for the Election

With election day fast approaching let's be sure that we and our friends are **REGISTERED** to vote, **EDUCATED** on the issues and candidate position on them and then that we do **VOTE** and remember to vote all the way down the ballot. Together we will make a difference.

[Ken Olson](#)

BRANCH NEWS

You're invited to the **AAUW Jane Addams/Northwest Suburban** branches' **Get Out the Vote** program online on **Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m.**

Election 2024 will be a historic election! Imagine electing the first woman president! This is also the first presidential election since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Over 167 million women have had their rights diminished. Will their voices be heard? In addition, the Equal Rights Amendment has not been published. We must continue our advocacy of equity for all women.

Let's mobilize voters for a huge turnout for this historic election. Join us to review our AAUW values and how to evaluate candidates. We'll discuss why this election is especially important for women and our AAUW mission of equity. Discussion will include how to talk to neighbors about the election.

Presenter: Elaine Fisher, Northwest Suburban President & Public Policy Chair

Please register in advance. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you have any other questions, contact Kate Skegg, Zoom registrar at aauwJaneAddams@gmail.com

[Register](#)

Book Discussion, Tuesday, Oct 22, 4 pm - 5.30 pm

The **Northwest Suburban Branch and the Jane Addams Branch** invite you to a discussion of Susan Page's book *The Rulebreaker*, about Barbara Walters's life and times.

Walters was not just a groundbreaker for women, but also expanded the big TV interview and then dominated the genre. By the end of her career, she had interviewed more of the famous and infamous, from presidents to movie stars to criminals to despots, than any other journalist in history. Then at sixty-seven, past the age of many female broadcasters found themselves involuntarily retired, she pioneered a new form of talk TV called *The View*. She broke all the rules and finally gave women a permanent place on the air,

Guests are welcome, as always!

[Register](#)

Meet the AAUW Fellows and Grantees.

Saturday, November 9 at 10:30am via zoom

We will have recent recipients of the AAUW fellowships and grants speak to us about their research, studies, and projects.

As of 2024, we've given more than \$146 million to over 14,000 women and nonprofit organizations around the world. Our recipients include some of the most influential voices of the past two centuries — women who have helped shape history — as well as nonprofit organizations at the forefront of driving social change. AAUW awarded its largest amount EVER in Fellowships & Grants—\$6.3 MILLION to 285 deserving fellows and grantees to pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects that empower women and girls for the 2023-24 academic year.

This webinar is cosponsored by the **Chicago Inc. branch and the Jane Addams Online** branch.

[Register](#)

If your branch has a program or recognition of 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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