

[View this email in your browser](#)



From the President:

Special thanks to AAUW-IL Co-VP of Programs - Jo-An Takamoto Sabonjian and Kathy Battee-Freeman – for planning AAUW-IL's 100th Convention in Springfield. There were 85 attendees, who took advantage of opportunities to share with AAUW members from other Branches. Gloria Blackwell, AAUW National CEO attended the entire convention. I had the opportunity to spend time with her; she enjoyed our enthusiastic energy and commitment to AAUW's mission.

Congratulations to Karen Hoffman of the Rockford Area Branch who was recognized as the 2025 AAUW-IL Agent of Change. Her nomination stated "We appreciate Karen's enthusiasm in reaching out to other people, particular women and girls. She is a true believer in empowering women and in making where {we} live a better place for everyone".

This is a time of transition in Branch Leadership. Special thanks to those who have served and to those who have stepped up and accepted the challenge to serve. Each Branch is unique. The common thread is the strength of women coming together to strive for equity for women and girls.

Laura Desmarais

Public Policy Update

We continue to have plenty of action on the policy front, I'll try to summarize a few of the things, but if you have questions please contact us.

Starting at the local level I want to thank branches who participated in Equal Pay Day information sharing. It is a great effort that supports a policy priority of AAUW. I also appreciate your time in filing Witness slips. One of our most recent requests was in support of the Equal Pay Day resolution authored by AAUW. Illinois ranks 31st among the states in the pay difference, so we have more work to do. There will be requests on different issues moving forward, so please take a couple of minutes to do them. If you have any questions about filling them out please let us know. We are planning webinar later this summer, after the new Illinois State website is up, to review filling out the slips on the updated system Watch for details. We also had requests from National to join in signing letters to Congress to support AAUW priorities. Please do them and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

At the state level, our recent convention had a strong focus on policy. Our public policy display had good traffic. There is substantial concern over administration actions attacking women's health care, reproductive rights, voting rights, defunding education, eliminating the Department of Education, attacking research, attacking not for profits and more. During the Convention Jenni Purdue highlighted legislative activities at the state and Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, covered a variety of topics including coalition letters and [Press Releases from National](#) opposing harmful actions by the administration. The uncertainty in Washington makes action in Springfield difficult as we don't know what needs to be addressed.

In the week after the convention the co-Directors of Public Policy for AAUW IL, joined Planned Parenthood Lobby Day in Springfield to advocate for bills and action in support of Women's health care and reproductive rights. Karen was to testify in support of the AAUW Resolution recognizing Equal Pay Day. Unfortunately the hearing was canceled, but the lobby day was good.

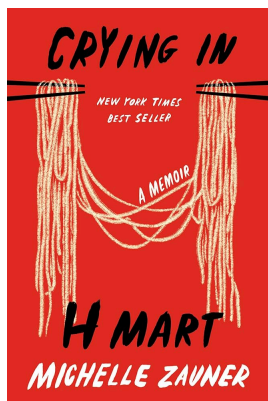
As noted, National has been active in opposing administration attacks on many AAUW priorities and core values. There have been so many Executive Order that they are hard to keep up with, but here is a link to a fact sheet, developed by National that summarizes the Executive Orders, their potential impact and actions that have been taken. ([Fact Sheet](#)) National has also put out a release on the first 100 Days of the Trump administration: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/100-days-of-the-trump-administration-a-relentless-assault-on-higher-education/>. I encourage you to visit the AAUW Press release page and the Policy Update page as new information will be posted there.

& Workforce Committee. Going forward more of the information used on the hill and encourage our use of it with our members of Congress.

As a start you will find AAUW talking points on House Ed & Workforce budget reconciliation bill by clicking here: [Talking Points - Budget Reconciliation](#). Thanks for all you do. Continue to speak up for AAUW priorities and values.

Ken Olson and Karen Kortsch
Co-Directors of Public Policy

Branch News



Book Discussion on Zoom, Tuesday, May 27th, 4 pm - 5:30 pm

The **Northwest Suburban Branch** and the **Jane Addams Branch** invite you to discuss **Crying in H Mart: A Memoir by Michelle Zauner**.

"In this exquisite story of family, food, grief, and endurance, Michelle Zauner proves herself far more than a dazzling singer, songwriter, and guitarist. With humor and heart, she tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother's particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food."

[Please register to attend](#)

Upcoming Book discussion:
Jun 24: Fuzz by Mary Roach

Guests are welcome!

AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch will host its 2025 Annual Used Book Sale on June 19 - 21 at Park View Elementary School, 250 S. Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn. Over 12,000 books are locally donated and are timely and in great condition. Admission is free and there is no presale. The sale features Fiction, Non-Fiction, Young Adult, and Children's books. This year board games and puzzles will also be sold.

TH June 19 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
FR June 20 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
ST June 21 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday is \$10/Bag

Book sale proceeds primarily go to fund college scholarships for local high school girls.

A hands-on workshop to earn your Communications Star.

Thursday, June 26, 7 pm.

We will review the AAUW Five-Star Communications requirements and demonstrate how to post on social media easily.

Participants are encouraged to use their laptops, netbooks, or smartphones to follow along.

[Please register in advance:](#)

Presenters are Elaine Fisher and Kate Skegg from the Jane Addams Branch.
Questions? aauwjaneaddams@gmail.com

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 mission: Gender Equity & Economic Security

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](#).