

AAUW TIMES

**Elgin Area Branch
1920-2017**



**Working for 97 years to promote equity for all women and girls,
Life-long education and positive social change**

February 2018

American Association of University Women

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General Meeting

**Tuesday, February 20, 7:00 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin Room**

Stories Through Image & Word



Stories Through Image & Word

Elgin photographer Marcia Gutierrez will share her adventure of hiking 600 miles from France to Spain across the Pyrenees Mountains with her husband. To quote Marcia, “Soon my husband (his second time) and I will be walking the 600 miles from St. Jean Pied-de-Port, France to Finisterre, Spain. A pilgrimage that has been going on for over 2000 years. I will be taking a lot of photos and keeping up with a blog. The journey for this starts way before I ever set foot on the road in France. It begins at home with prep and mindset.”

For more information:
marciagutierrez.com or explore her blogs:
Storiesthruimageandword.com
Quiltedtales.com

Calendar

- Feb 4 Theater Party and Potluck 2 pm
A Piece of My Heart
Elgin Art Showcase
Hostess: Jeanne Hebeisen
- Feb 8 Morning Book Group 9:30 am
The Underground Railroad by Colson
Whitehead
Hostess: Patty Harkin
- Feb 12 Great Books 7pm
Gail Borden Public Library
Death in the Family, James Agee
- Feb 19 Knitting/Crocheting Group 1 pm
Hostess: Patty Harkin
- Feb 20 General Meeting 7 pm
Stories Through Image & Word
Marcia Gutierrez, Photographer and Blogger
- Feb 20 Deadline for March Newsletter
- Feb 27 Reel Women/Real Women 6 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
Battle of the Sexes, 2017
- Feb 28 Evening Book Group 7pm
Option B, Sheryl Sandberg
Colonial Café, Elgin

Non-Branch Events

- Feb 14 The Long Red Line: Rise. Resist. Revolt
ECC, Building B, Jobe Lounge
- Mar 3 Women's History Month High Tea 12:30-2:30 pm
ECC Business Center Dining Room
- Mar 15 Elgin Image Awards
Our Branch nominee is Patty Harkin
- Apr 15 Fellowship Brunch at Lamb's Farm

Diversity

From Sue Schulz

Time...everything takes time. Our Elgin Area Branch Strategic Plan states that we are to increase visibility in the community, cultivate leadership and increase and retain membership with the emphasis on recruiting younger and more diverse members. The work that we have been doing in our diversity and membership committees over the last few years is beginning to see the fruit of our labor. It takes leadership to move in these directions but it takes our members to make these goals become a reality.

THANK YOU to all of our members who have contributed their time, talents and resources to make this happen. Our work with Centro de Informacion, Elgin Hispanic Network (EHN), City of Elgin Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Black History Family Festival (BHFF), and Long Red Line has built recognition of our AAUW Elgin Branch.

Our strong and interesting monthly programs have drawn in new members, as well as the setting up of our AAUW informational table at community outreach activities. The new members we are seeing are dynamic women who have a lot to contribute to our branch and are quickly becoming active in the branch.

THANK YOU to those who have stepped up and have become “befrienders” to these new members. This work welcomes them into our branch, builds more leadership and helps the new members navigate our very active branch.

The work is far from complete. However, it is exciting to see new, more diverse membership building. January has been a very busy month with the MLK program, Elgin Standing Together, our EHN presentation, Women & Culture and BHFF coming up. I hope that many of you continue to participate in these events. Most importantly, due to many of us wearing the hats of many organizations, I hope that you speak to the mission of AAUW and how it connects with all these community events. I hope you reference yourself as an AAUW member. Our mission speaks to the political climate that surrounds us at this time. Many are looking for organizations to connect with so that they can be part of the solution to the problems facing women and families.

Now is a time of coalition building, now is a time to protect the rights and progress that was made through the 50s, 60s and 70s. Now is a time to stand up for the vulnerable, women and young girls. Now is a time to understand and communicate the mission of this great organization we are part of. Now is the time to be a proud AAUW member and let others know of our work and mission.

Women's History Month High Tea

Saturday, March 3 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

ECC Business Center Dining Room

Cost: \$22/person



Featured will be Kathy Matthews, an American Needlepoint Guild Master Judge who will speak about the hidden meanings behind many of the embroideries that Mary Queen of Scots did during the 10 years that she was imprisoned by her cousin Queen Elizabeth. Those in attendance will also have the chance to try their hands this domestic art.

The menu for the high tea will feature egg salad and cucumber & cream cheese finger sandwiches, a variety of scones and finger-tip deserts as well as a variety of teas and other beverages.

Reservations can be made online at ywcaelgin.org/whb17 or by check payable to YWCA Elgin, 220 E. Chicago St., Elgin IL 60120.

Because the menu is more involved, **no reservations can be accepted after February 19.**

(For those getting email copy of newsletter – see attachment.)

International Relations

From Ruth Bradburn

Think you know your facts on women and the economy? Take this short quiz to find out! I did not get a passing grade!

<http://unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2017/2/quiz-women-economy>

Membership Matters

Continuing to Retain AAUW Branch

Members

By Rosemary Dyson

Member retention is a subject that comes up on a regular basis. It is the key to sustainable growth. Our Elgin Area Branch AAUW is doing a very good job. We have a

Befriender program that mentors new members and helps them to find their niche in our branch.

We can't rest on the success that we enjoy with many of our new members. We need to fine tune our retention programs and make sure that we are fulfilling the needs of all new members.

Successful member retention starts with the first interaction and continues that contact throughout the lifetime of the relationship. A branch's ability to attract and retain members relates not only to AAUW's benefits and mission but also the satisfying and rewarding experience of being part of the branch team. Retention is about more than just meeting expectations. It's about exceeding expectations so that people want to become AAUW advocates and active members of your branch.

Below are seven keys to exceeding expectations. The good news is that many of these programs have already been incorporated into Our Elgin Area Branch membership retention program. There are other parts of this seven-part plan that still have not been incorporated into our branch membership retention plan. Let's continue to engage and motivate new and old members to make our branch vibrant and strong.

1. Encourage member involvement.

Build connections by promoting interaction and involvement.

- Invite new members to check out the different interest groups and projects.
- Conduct introductory interviews with new members to find out what they are looking for.
- Reach out and personally thank new members for joining your branch.
- Inform new members about branch activities.
- Give personal invitations to join you at meetings, interest groups, and other activities.
- Take note when a new member does not attend branch meetings, and follow up politely.
- Be sure to encourage noninvasive involvement — don't force it! Engage and inquire with new members rather than instructing, directing, or demanding. Ask yourself: What's in it for **them**, not how can they help **us**?
- Create different paths to engagement that require varying levels of commitment (for example, developing a newsletter while at home with children or on the road with work).

2. Demonstrate value.

Develop a plan to encourage board and branch members to help new members feel welcome.

- Meet and greet new members throughout the year; consider having door greeters at your branch meetings and other events.
- Consider a special induction of each new member at branch meetings and interest group activities.

- Use a name tag format to differentiate new members (such as a different color).
- Take some time to get to know new members as people and not just part of a group.
- Send personal thank-you cards welcoming them to the branch — not just e-mails!
- Highlight and welcome new members in your newsletter (with their permission).
- Provide a photo album or include member pictures in the branch directory to help new members get to know everyone.

Coordinate activities with branch leadership to provide meaningful, fun meetings and events.

- Meaningful programs and projects that support women and girls help people find value in membership.
- Announce member birthdays.
- Celebrate member and branch achievements.
- Fun social events help engage members. Social events can also lead to mission-based programming.

Provide information about AAUW's mission and goals.

- Include the main AAUW and branch website addresses and other resources.
- Let them know how to access passwords.
- Tell them how to access the branch, state, and AAUW national Facebook pages, Twitter, or other social media.

3. Communicate appropriately.

Develop membership surveys for all branch members.

- Ask what works for them and what does not.
- Why are they choosing to stay with AAUW?
- Ask for suggestions, and build and develop programs around those ideas.

4. Segment your membership.

Hold a new member orientation.

- Assign a current or former branch or local board member to mentor each new member. Match each new member with someone who has similar interests or experience.
- Conduct a new member orientation once or twice a year.

5. Use a multilayer approach for renewal.

Use every channel available to communicate with members.

- Develop a planned approach that involves phone calls, e-mail, postal mail, and in-person contact with members.
- Track member involvement at all times, and use the information you collect to remind your members of the programs and resources they've taken advantage of during their membership.
- In your e-mail and postal mail communications, remind members about their contributions to AAUW,

where their gift will go, and any other details you can give.

- Reiterate the benefits of membership.

6. Survey former members.

Conduct an exit interview or survey when a member does not rejoin.

- Ask why they are not renewing their membership.
- Ask for suggestions for improvement.

7. Focus on your target audience.

Work on promoting positive vibes in your branch.

- Increase visibility in your local community.
- Share any new information about your branch, state, and AAUW national.
- Strive for balance between your personal and volunteer lives.
- Show enthusiasm at all times! Be excited and celebrate your members.
- Solidarity means creating a fellowship between your members.

Reel Women/Real Women

From Barbara Evans



Tues., Feb. 27: *Battle of the Sexes*, (2017) PG-13

Starring Emma Stone & Steve Carell

The 1973 tennis match between women's World #1 Billie Jean King and former men's champion Bobby Riggs became one of the most watched televised sports events of all time. As the rivalry between King and Riggs kicked into high gear, off-court each was fighting more personal and complex battles. King was not only fighting for equal pay for women athletes but also struggling to come to terms with her own sexuality. And Riggs wrestled with his gambling demons, at the expense of his family and wife.

As one critic wrote, "Stone delivers a richly layered performance, mixing grit for her cause, emotional confusion in her personal life and witty banter against Riggs. Carell has a distinctly smaller role for the first half, and brings a healthy dose of colorful humor to the movie before showing an impressive emotional depth as events turn against Riggs later." And as another aptly observed, "The film's unfortunately timeless issues provide a lot for viewers to consider and talk about regarding relationships and marriage."

Open to the public, Reel Women meets at Gail Borden Library at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month except November and December. You are welcome to bring food and drink into the movie. Discussion follows the show.

Tues., Mar. 27: *Victoria and Abdul*. (2017)

Tues., April 24: *Lady Bird* (2017)

Public Policy From Shirley May Byrne

Government 101: The Gail Borden Public Library *District is hosting a series encouraging civic engagement* put together by Franklin Ramirez, Elgin Township Supervisor. The first was held Sat. January 20 and featured information about the Illinois General Assembly. The presenters were Rep. Anna Moeller, 43rd District since 2014, and Sen. Cristina Castro, 22nd District since 2016. The IL legislature is bicameral, i.e., has two chambers. Nebraska is the only state that has one chamber. The IL legislature has two year cycles with bills introduced in the first year; in the second years, bills that were introduced but not passed may be considered. Occasionally, new bills are introduced in the second year. 2018 is the second year of the 100th General Assembly (GA) which first met in 1818. This is the 200th anniversary of the GA and the state. There are 59 Senators in districts of approximately 250,000 people; their terms are 4 or 2 years. There are 118 representatives in districts of approximately 125,000 people; their terms are 2 years. Sen. Castro's district includes Rep. Moeller and Rep. Fred Crespo who has her Cook Co. residents. The state is redistricted every 10 years. That will happen in 2020 at which time all senators and representatives will be up for election. Currently there are 37 Democrats and 22 Republicans in the Senate, and 67 Democrats and 51 Republicans in the House. A supermajority is 36 in the Senate and 71 in the House.

Budget: On January 31, the Governor is slated to give the State of the State address. On February 14, he is scheduled to present his budget. Then the legislature prepares its budget. The 3 largest expenditure categories in the general fund budget are pension, K-12 education, and Medicaid. Then there is the all funds budget which includes the general fund and almost 100 other funds that the GA and Governor do not control. These include pass through funds, fees collected by agencies, etc.

The local government distributive fund (LGDF) is the fund that local municipalities receive from income taxes collected by the state. When it was set up in 1969, municipalities received 12%; now it is closer to 10%. The Governor often threatens to eliminate this fund which would cause property taxes and local fees to increase. So far the legislature has not agreed to that. Fund sweeps have been done to fill in budget gaps. These have to be paid back with interest.

In a discussion about the state's budget woes, it was stated that Illinois' economy is greater than Saudi Arabia. We're dealing with a demographic shift. All states are dealing with pension issues; IL is worse because hard decisions weren't made in earlier years such as policy changes in the 1990s and the creation of the pension ramp. The IL Supreme Court has ruled that current pensions can't be reduced which has led to a second and third tier in the pension system. A pension cannot be lower than what Social Security would pay which has called the second tier into question (I don't understand much of this, just reporting what was said). Another interesting fact

is that for those current legislators who have chosen not to participate in the pension fund, the state has had to pay \$6 million for current pensions since the new people aren't paying in. If the state would convert the pension fund to 401(k)s, it would cost the state even more in order to make payments to those currently who are retired.

On the revenue side, the main source of income is the income tax. Due to the state constitution, it is a flat tax. In order to have a graduated tax based on income, the constitution has to be changed. The income tax is on earned income, not Social Security or pensions.

Bills: The rules for each house are voted on each year so they may change every two years. Ideas for bills are sent to the Legislative Research Bureau in each house to be drafted. There is a due date for that. Once drafted, a bill is sent to the Rules Committee which is composed of the senior members of that house. If released, it is sent to a committee. Before it can be voted on, it has 3 readings. The first may be to an empty room. At the second, legislators are present. It may not go to the third reading until it needs work. When it is the third reading, the principal sponsor does the reading.

Shell bills are bills which are given a number and general title but have no content. They serve as a place holder. The bill may be used later if the deadlines for filing are past, and a legislator has an issue come up that they feel needs to be addressed. Sometime a bill is swept clean of its content when it gets to the second house. The sponsor there then puts in entirely new language for a different issue. Rep. Moeller had this happen to one of her bills.

Another thing that may happen is that a bill is hijacked or held hostage. It passes the first house and is sent to the second where a legislator who isn't in favor of it may sign on as the principal sponsor, then not introduce it. For this reason, it is important to have someone in the second house to prefile for sponsorship of the bill before it passes the first house.

Only the principal sponsor can amend a bill. There is a lot of negotiation, bartering, and compromise to get bills passed. It's all about relationships, being honest, and building credibility. Bills that state they are "agreed to bills" are ones where both sides have met and worked out their issues with the bill.

Prior to May 31, bills are passed with a simple majority vote, After May 31, it takes a 2/3 majority to pass a bill. Once a bill has passed both houses, it goes to the Governor for signature. He/she has 60 days to sign or veto. If neither is done, the bill becomes law. The Governor may to an amendatory or line item veto. There is a veto session in November where the legislature may override the Governor's vetoes. If the bill states that the law is effective immediately, it goes into effect on the day the Governor signs it. The bill may state that it is effective July 1 or January 1.

A legislator's duties are not limited to serving in Springfield when her/his house is in session. When the legislature is not in

session, there are committee meetings, task force meetings, and constituent meetings as well as events to attend, as well as legislation to write and contacts with other legislators about the bills. It is a full time job for most legislators, including Sen. Castro and Rep. Moeller.

The next session in this series will be February 17 from 10-noon at the library when Judge John Dalton will talk about the judicial branch of Illinois' government.

Human Trafficking: The Kane County Sheriff is providing informational sessions at the Gail Borden Public Library on a variety of issues, many of which pertain to AAUW issues. On January 9, a panel talked about human trafficking in the Chicago area and in Elgin. Chicago is the 4th highest large city with human trafficking with 10,000 children who ran away or were kidnapped and trafficked. Eric Nelson, Executive Director of Administer Justice defined human trafficking and how it differed from human smuggling. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, in which human beings are controlled and exploited for profit. Perpetrators use force, fraud, or coercion to manipulate and establish control over individuals. (humantraffickingsearch.net) "Trafficking" is based on exploitation and does not require movement across borders. "Smuggling" is based on movement and involves moving a person across a country's border with that person's consent in violation of immigration laws. Although human smuggling is very different from human trafficking, human smuggling can turn into trafficking if the smuggler uses force, fraud, or coercion to hold people against their will for the purposes of labor or sexual exploitation. (<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/myths-and-misconceptions>)

Victims of human trafficking can be any age, gender, race, or immigration status; they live in cities, suburbs, and rural areas. There are 10-20,000 victims of sex trafficking in the Chicago area which is part of the I90 corridor. 76% of the children were assaulted before being trafficked. Many of those who are trafficked are US citizens, not immigrants. IL is one of the better states with laws against human trafficking. The Polaris Project website on human trafficking is the site for state laws on this issue.

Ed Brown from Chicago's office of Homeland Security stated that this is a highly profitable crime and a hidden one. It is a crime against person and is exploitation based. More information is available at dhs.gov/humantrafficking. To report suspected trafficking call the national hotline 888-373-7888.

Lest we think Elgin is immune to trafficking, Detective Houghton of the Elgin Police Dept. reported that 715 cases were reported. During the past 5 years, 1200 children and 500 adults were reported missing in Elgin and many of them may have become trafficked. It's easy to get to Chicago on the Metra. Prostitution exists in Elgin. Often people are recruited through websites such as Backpage and Craig's list with promises of a modeling or acting career among other

enticements. There were 230 postings on Craigslist for sex acts in Elgin during the seven days prior to Christmas.

Two speakers talked about Rahab's Daughters, a faith-based rehab program for those who have been trafficked. It teaches the victims how to re-integrate into society and become independent.

There are two more programs from the Kane County Sheriff scheduled on Feb. 6, Exposing the Heroin Highway, and April 3, The Dark Web: What Parents Need to Know about the Dark Side of the Internet. Other programs of interest at the library include the Illinois Speaks! Current Issues Monthly Discussion Group: Jan. 23, Taking The Knee: Protests & Patriotism In The Public Eye, Feb. 27, Mass Incarceration & Our Community, Mar. 27, Are The Homeless At Home Here? and April 24, Hashtag Activism: Creating Empathy Or Apathy? Share your viewpoint, understand a different perspective and engage in the art of fine conversation. Partner: Illinois Humanities.