

AAUW TIMES

Elgin Area Branch
1920-2022



*Working for 102 years to promote equity for women and girls,
life-long education and positive social change*

April/May 2022

American Association of University Women

Vol. 26 No. 5

AAUW's Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Website – elginarea-il.aauw.net

Email Address – aauw.il.elgin@gmail.com

General Meetings

Pakistan Schools

Education and Opportunity For Women

Tuesday, April 19 6 p.m. via Zoom

Register at the Library

The link will be sent by Judi Tepe to the branch

Karen Noorani will talk about The Citizen's Foundation (TCF-USA), a non-profit begun by her husband Danial Noorani, to provide a safe, reliable, and transparent way to donate to schools in Pakistan. TCF-USA now has 1687 schools in urban slums and rural areas of Pakistan, serving 275,000 students. 50% of the student population are girls, with an all-female teaching staff, providing a safe environment to attend school and job opportunities. It is now the largest employer of women in Pakistan.

Annual Awards Banquet

Thursday, May 24 5-9 p.m.

Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano 1524 S Randall Rd Algonquin



Enjoy dinner and musical entertainment, in person, to celebrate together with longtime friends and new guests. Recognition of members receiving branch awards and the scholarship recipients.

Calendar

April

- Apr. 6 **Current Movie Group** 4:30 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library – Grove Room
The Lost Daughter and *Love is Color Blind*
- Apr. 11 **Great Books** 7 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library and Zoom
Register at the library
Short stories by Ernest Hemingway
“Clean Well-Lighted Place”, “Hills Like White Elephants” and “Cross-Country Snow”.
- Apr. 14 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Public Library – Elgin Room
Dreamers of the Day, Mary Doris Russell
- Apr. 18 **Knitting Group** 1 p.m.
Hostess: Rosemary Dyson
- Apr. 19 **General Meeting** 6 p.m. Zoom
- Apr. 21 **Diversity Group** 1 p.m. Zoom
Register at the library
Dr. Mary Van Nortwick, Professor Emerita of English at the University of Akron
- Apr. 27 **Evening Book Group** 7 p.m. - Location TBA
The Paris Library, Janet Skeslien Charles

May

- May 2 **Board Meeting**
Watch your email for time and location.

May 9 **Great Books** 7 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library and Zoom
Register at Library
“On Tranquility of Mind”, Lucius Annaeus Seneca

May 16 **Knitting Group** 1 p.m.
Hostess: Muriel Riedesel

May 19 **Morning Book Group** 11 a.m.
Note change in date and time
Shelter at Fitchie Creek , Kane County Forest Preserve - Entrance on Entrance on Russell Road
Picnic Lunch & Book Selection for the coming program year. Bring your own lunch & beverage. Please RSVP to mec515@sbcglobal.net.

May 24 **General Meeting** 5-9 p.m.
Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano

May 25 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m.
Hostess; Patty Golden
Book Selection for 2022-23

May 6-7 Illinois State Convention

Doubletree by Hilton in Lisle
3003 Corporate W Dr, Lisle
Details on Page 5

Presidents' Report

From Rosemary Dyson

AAUW celebrated its 140th Anniversary and its legacy of moving women forward. Ten years ago, a friend brought me to a Shape the Future membership recruitment event. It was held at a member's home. It was a warm balmy day. Several Elgin Area Branch members talked about how they were empowering women and girls in their corner of the world. I wanted to make a difference for women and the girls that dreamed of careers in emerging technology, engineering and math. I joined AAUW that night. I have never regretted stepping forward. We still have a way to go before women and girls reach full equality, but we're definitely gaining ground. Let's look at the numbers:

- ❖ **170,000** members and supporters dedicated to advancing equity for women and girls.
- ❖ **68,271** letters from members and supporters sent to elected officials to advocate for AAUW's public policy priorities, including paycheck fairness, paid leave, reproductive rights, and student loan forgiveness just to name a few.
- ❖ **260** fellows and grantees received \$5 million in funding to pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls.
- ❖ **4** research reports produced by AAUW in 2021.
- ❖ **5** gender discrimination lawsuits supported by AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund.

- ❖ **188,675** total people trained to negotiate their salaries through AAUW Work Smart, Start Smart and Work Smart online.
- ❖ **3.3** million impressions from AAUW's social media communities including Facebook, Twitter , Instagram and LinkedIn.
- ❖ **950** girls and their caregivers participated in AAUW STEMEd for girls a pilot program designed to encourage high school girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

There is still a lot of work to be done. There are barriers to be broken. The “qualities” of a leader — as well as the path to achieve leadership roles — are still largely based on an outdated male model that shuts women out.

Old Stereotypes

Because men have been leaders for so long, the traits associated with leadership are often thought of as masculine and not viewed as favorably when exhibited by women.

Fewer “connections”

Men still surpass women in having the networks to learn about opportunities and find mentors and sponsors to champion their advancement.

Bias and Discrimination

Sexual harassment, hostile work environments and subtle biases are still obstacles. Women of color face even further obstacles to their advancement and, as a result, are even less likely to move into leadership roles.

Lack of Flexibility

Balancing work and family can be a challenge that limits women from seeking leadership roles. Workplaces are still designed a decades-old notion of male and female domestic roles.

Let's continue to bring in women (and men) who want to ensure equality for all.

Membership

2022-2023 Dues Update

From Bonnie Hill

Dues are as follows:

\$90.00 Members

\$23.00 Life Members

Checks should be made out to: AAUW Elgin Area Branch.

Please send your check to:

Bonnie Hill

11N962 Orchard Ln.

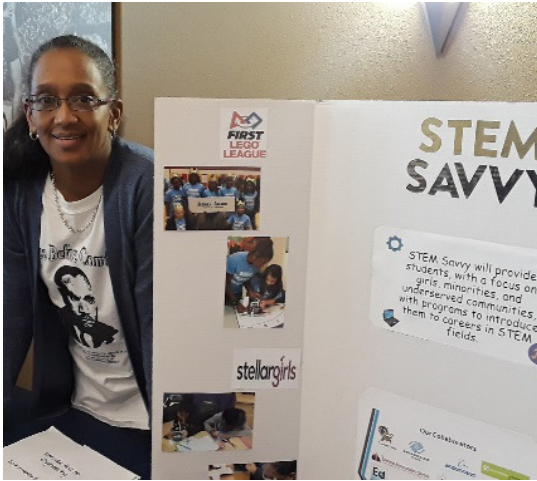
Elgin, IL 60124

AAUW National is revamping its website. When the link for online renewals is available I will send it.

Diversity Committee

From Jennifer Ford

What a program we had at the February Women and Culture program. *STEM Savvy students highlighted some well and lesser known STEM focused women of color and their contributions to society. They are inventors, scientists, engineers but most importantly, women.* Just as important as these scientists were, so were the students who presented the stories. They were smart, articulate, well informed, funny, charming, and one of them was Lydia Gillus's daughter! I suggested to them that after they graduated, probably with advanced degrees, became successful, and had time and energy to contribute, they should consider joining AAUW as future leaders.



The Diversity Committee met to brainstorm future Women and Culture programs. Ideas included learning what to listen for when attending symphonies, women in law enforcement, Hmong immigrants, non-Christian religions, Daily Herald Diversity editor Madhu Krishnamurthy, Baha'i House of Worship visit, persons with disabilities, a trip with the Rockford Branch to local sites in US Women's History, and class/caste divisions. Sound interesting? Please plan to join us, usually on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 1:00, hopefully in person where feasible. Our next Diversity Committee planning meeting will also include examining where diversity intersects with membership and the mission of AAUW.

The Thursday, April 21 program, 1:00, Zoom, will feature Dr. Mary Van Nortwick, Professor Emerita of English at the University of Akron. She will describe her experiences as a WWII refugee from Ukraine. When she was an infant, she and her parents lived in a displaced persons camp in Austria before being relocated to Canada.

The May program is being finalized. Details will follow. But don't forget our traditional June 23 meeting featuring Extraordinary Women, this year featuring women in music. Let me know as soon as you have picked your person to present to ensure that we do not have duplicates.

Change in Date of Meeting at Suzanne Massion's Home

From Mary Navin

The "Images of the Heartland Reception, Show and Sale", listed in the yearbook as being on April 24, has been shifted to October 1. Due to the pandemic, Suzanne was not comfortable with having it in April.

Suzanne Massion has been a friend of AAUW throughout our many years of AAUW's biennial garden walks, as an "artist in the garden," as well as participating in our Art Showcase events. She is a local, internationally known artist. Her paintings will be displayed throughout her sprawling wooded countryside home during our invitation only reception, exhibition, and sale. Suzanne will share her exquisite home, exhibit her paintings, and share in her profits from sales.

Public Policy Report

From Shirley May Byrnes

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA): President Biden has signed. It ensured that survivors and service providers can access critical resources and protections. It expanded its protections for particularly vulnerable groups of people, including Native American women and LGBTQ survivors of violence. It was part of the budget bill that Congress passed.

Faye Marcus, 3/15/22 email, HuffPost Politics, 3/11/22
Paycheck Fairness Act (HR7): This bill addresses wage discrimination on the basis of sex, which is defined to include pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics. Specifically, it limits an employer's defense that a pay differential is based on a factor other than sex to only bona fide job-related factors in wage discrimination claims, enhances non-retaliation prohibitions, and makes it unlawful to require an employee to sign a contract or waiver prohibiting the employee from disclosing information about the employee's wages. The bill also increases civil penalties for violations of equal pay provisions. Passed U.S. House 4/15/21. On 6/8/21, the Senate "Cloture on the motion to proceed to the measure not invoked in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 49 - 50".

AAUW Action Network 3/15/22; Congress.gov

Mental Health Authorities Validation (SB3215): This IL bill amends the Community Care for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, the Counties Code, the Property Tax Code, and the Community Mental Health Act to validate existing levies for certain community mental health boards and brings the Acts in compliance with Property Tax Extension Law Limit (PTELL). Residents of Elgin Township passed authorization of a 708 Mental Health Board. It didn't include the PTELL so the Kane County Board didn't fund it. This bill would allow the funding without a PTELL. In the IL House.

Paid Family & Medical Leave HB5029, SB835: Paula Purdue reported on zoom call of IL public policy chairs that this is a difficult bill to pass in an election year. It didn't make it out of committee, but AAUW-IL hasn't given up on it. It was introduced in the Senate and recently in the House. Co-sponsors for both bills are needed. Legislators need to be educated about the bill. It's a family value issue. A fact sheet about the bill was sent with the Cancer lobby day info. SB835 language is under Amendment 1.

ERA Amendment: Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney sent a letter asking Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to schedule a vote on SJ Res 1 (the bill to remove the time limit on the ERA) in the Senate. The Department of Justice filed a brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in the case by the states of Illinois and Nevada seeking to force U.S. Archivist David S. Ferriero to publish the Equal Rights Amendment as part of the Constitution. The brief asks the D.C. Circuit to affirm the dismissal of the case "without resolving the ERA's legal status." Importantly, the brief does not embrace the district court's conclusion that the time limit stands in the way of the ERA. Instead, it recognizes that the questions of the ERA's validity are important, profound, and novel. The brief argues that the dismissal should be affirmed on the grounds that the plaintiffs lack standing and have fallen short of the requirement to show a "clear and undisputable" entitlement to government action.

ERA Coalition, 3/5 and 3/8/22 emails

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA): Every pregnant worker deserves the opportunity to work to support her family without risking the health of her pregnancy. Yet pregnant workers, especially those in low-wage and physically demanding jobs, are routinely forced to choose between their health and a paycheck.

The PWFA would mean that employers can't force pregnant workers off the job or deny them reasonable accommodations that would allow them to continue working while maintaining healthy pregnancies. ACLU 2/8/22 email

REACH (Medicare Direct Contracting): Instead of ending Trump's privatization experiment, CMS Innovation Center Director, Liz Fowler, a former big pharma executive, chose to rebrand it as the Direct Contracting program. They are incentivized to deny and delay care as much as possible. This dangerous experiment must be stopped before it further harms the health of vulnerable seniors, eats into the Medicare Trust Fund, and destroys traditional Medicare. Social SecurityWorks, 2/25/22 email, PNHP 3/8/22

Supreme Court Nominee: AAUW supports the nomination of **Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court.**

Big Oil Windfall Profits Tax: Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) has introduced this bill that would address profiteering by large oil companies and ensure they pay their fair share. The profits would go directly to working families in the form of a rebate. Tammy Baldwin letter, 3/a9/22

State of the Union Message: During his speech, President Biden highlighted many AAUW Public Policy Principles, including calls to:

- [Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act](#), which addresses wage and workplace discrimination based on sex.
- [Raise the federal minimum wage](#) to \$15 an hour.
- [Extend the Child Tax Credit.](#)
- [Lower child care costs.](#)
- [Support paid leave.](#)

President Biden also raised concern about the onslaught of state laws targeting transgender Americans and their families, asking Congress to send the bipartisan [Equality Act](#) to his desk for enactment. AAUW Washington Update, 3/4/22

Women's Health Protection Act (S1975): A woman's right to make personal reproductive healthcare decisions is a freedom guaranteed to her under law and protected by the United States Constitution. However, in many States, reproductive healthcare is often difficult to access due to State laws that seek to restrict or ban access to legal abortion and inflict unnecessary hardship on women seeking basic access to care. As reproductive rights continue to be targeted, Congress must act to protect these rights and codify *Roe v. Wade* into law. Both Duckworth and Durbin are co-sponsors. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, 3/3/22 letter.

Student Debt Crisis: Student debt is both a gender and racial equity issue. Women hold almost two-thirds of our nation's \$1.7 trillion in outstanding student loan debt, with Black women taking on the most substantial burden. When women graduate, their debt repayment collides with the gender wage gap and the racial wealth gap, making repayment harder. And this isn't just a student problem. As a nation, we rely on women to add to and strengthen our economy. That can't happen under mountains of student debt. While Congress must work on legislation to address the diverse issues of both current debt-holders and future student borrowers, there is an urgent need to act today to help those overwhelmed with student loan debt. AAUW Action Network, 2/16/22.

[Removing Felony Bar for Individuals Seeking a Name Change:](#) (HB 2542): brings our state's overly-restrictive name change law, in line with the majority of other states and helps those who are transgender, gender-expansive people and survivors of human trafficking live safer and more authentic lives by removing the ten -year waiting period and the lifetime ban. ACLU of IL, 3/8/22

Rep. Anna Moeller Winter 2022 Newsletter

INCOME TAX-CAREGIVER CREDIT (HB4771) This bill provides that a tax payer who is a family caretaker can be eligible to receive an income tax credit. This amount would be equal to the eligible expenses made by the taxpayer during the taxable year up to \$1,500 to care for the eligible family member.

HB4426 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE -ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

Amends the Unemployment Insurance Act. To provide benefits to academic personnel who are not employed in an instructional, research, or principal administrative capacity, but who provide important supports to teachers and students.

HB4085 MEDICAID-NURSING RATES: Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that it shall be a matter of State policy that the Department of Healthcare and Family Services shall set nursing facility rates by rule utilizing an evidenced-based methodology that rewards appropriate staffing, quality-of-life improvements for nursing facility residents

HB4363 PESTICIDES-DICAMBA BAN:This bill would ban the use of any product containing dicamba for agricultural, commercial, or residential use within the State. Dicamba is a commonly used herbicide linked to negatively affecting plants native to Illinois. Includes native plants important for pollinators.

HB4372 PROHIBIT WILDLIFE CONTESTS: This house bill will amend the Wildlife Code to prohibit contests or competitions with the objective of killing fur-bearing animals for prizes and cash. This is an initiative of the Human Society to protect the ecosystem.

Illinois State Convention

May 6 – 7

Together Again! All In for Equity

**Doubletree by Hilton in Lisle
3003 Corporate W Dr, Lisle**

Friday – program, dinner, President’s reception: \$60
Early bird registration for Saturday: \$60
submitted/postmarked by April 15
General registration for Saturday: \$70
submitted/postmarked by April 28

To Register, go to: [2022 AAUW-IL State Convention Registration, Fri, May 6, 2022 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

**Friday Speaker - Gloria Blackwell, CEO of AAUW
Saturday Keynote Speaker – Julie Strauss, PhD on
Social Media: How is it Transforming our Democracy?
Saturday panel: Taking Theory to Reality: DEI (Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion) Panel**

**Plus, our own Jennifer Ford will be on a panel Saturday
afternoon on Branch Development.**

To find out more, go to: [AAUW District Conferences/State Conventions | of Illinois](#)

Need a ride? Can you drive/carpool? Contact Rosemary Dyson - rosemarydyson@sbcglobal.net.

Legacy Scholarship From Marlene Daubert

The cost of college has become a barrier for many women to receive higher education. We all know that we would not be where we are today without having this experience and education. It has helped shape our lives. You can make a difference in the life of a young woman by donating today to the Elgin Area Branch Legacy Scholarship. Send your donations to AAUW – Elgin Area Branch, c/o Jean Bridges, 5853 Haverford Way, Hoffman Estates 60192. Put “Legacy scholarship” on the memo line. Donations requested by April 15.

Thank you for supporting a young woman as she pursues her educational goals!

Newsletter Schedule

Following is the new schedule for the 2021– 2022 newsletters.

September-October
November-December-January
February-March
April-May
June-July-August

Newsletter Editors

Newsletter deadline for the June/July/August issue is May 20. Please submit all items as a **Word** document to both editors.

**Jeanne Hebeisen - jeanne@mc.net
Ina Whitehead - jwhitehead55@hotmail.com**

Website

Website items may be sent at any time to:
**Marcia Cameron - mec515@sbcglobal.net
Nancy Lamia - nancylamia@gmail.com**

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

AAUW is open to all graduates who hold an Associate or equivalent degree from a qualified educational institution.

AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

AAUW's Educational Foundation

AAUW provides funds to advance education, research and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive social change.

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund

AAUW invests in activities that prevent and combat sex discrimination and promote gender equity through support of litigation and educational programs.

About the Elgin Area Branch and AAUW Times

The Elgin Area Branch was organized in 1920 with 40 charter members.

AAUW Times is published six times a year by the Elgin Area Branch of the American Association of University Women.

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