

## CHICAGO BRANCH NEWSLETTER – September



**What:** A Conversation with IL State Representative Ann Williams and AAUW-IL state lobbyist Jenni Purdue

**When:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020

**Time:** 4:00pm via zoom

**RSVP:** To Ruth Holst at [holstruth@gmail.com](mailto:holstruth@gmail.com) to receive the zoom link or the zoom phone number to call in to hear the event

Join our lobbyist and Chicago branch member, Jenni Purdue and one of our Illinois State Representatives, Rep. Ann Williams, of Chicago to discuss the legislative process in Springfield, including how a bill becomes law, a Springfield update, and answer your questions in this Q & A focused event. All are welcome to attend and bring your questions. Please help spread the word to your networks.

Ann Williams is currently serving her fifth term as State Representative of the 11th District on Chicago's North Side. The district includes the Chicago neighborhoods of West Lakeview, Roscoe Village and Northcenter, as well as parts of Lincoln Park, Lincoln Square, and Ravenswood.

Ann's priorities include supporting our neighborhood schools, protecting critical human services, preventing gun violence, and restoring fiscal stability to Illinois. She is a strong and unwavering advocate of reproductive rights, and was a leader in bringing marriage equality to Illinois. She remains committed to ensuring equality for all Illinois families. Ann has sponsored and supported numerous legislative initiatives pertaining to privacy rights and data privacy. Formerly chair of the Green Caucus, Ann is a leader on issues related to the environment. She is the lead sponsor of the Clean Energy Jobs Act and consistently has a 100% voting record with the Illinois Environmental Council. Ann currently chairs the Energy and Environment Committee. She also serves as Vice Chair of the Judiciary-Civil Committee, and is a member of the Labor Committee and the Committee on Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, & IT.

## ***Meeting/Activities Dates and Topics***

November 3 Election Day  
November 14 AAUW Fellows presentation – 10:30am vi zoom  
January 12, 2021 Mother Jones event – Tuesday, 7pm via zoom  
January 2021 District 5 Networking Luncheon Time and date TBD



### **President's Message**

*When I was asked to be President of the Branch back in February a lot of questions went through my mind. Will I be good at it? Will it take a lot of time? Should I buy a pantsuit? What will I say in the President's message? But I never considered a pandemic. As the Summer turns to Fall with ever changing Phases and rules for this new world, AAUW Chicago will also be making changes.*

*Our meetings will be on Zoom beginning with our first one on Tuesday, September 15th. If you don't have computer access you can always call in to join the conversation. This meeting will have Chicago Branch member and AAUW-IL lobbyist Jenni Purdue with guest State Representative Ann Williams about how to work with your legislator and issues pertaining to the State of Illinois and local women's rights.*

*This is also an election year. So please make sure your information is correct with the Board of Elections or register if you haven't already done so. If you are already a registered voter, you should have received information in the mail about the option of voting by mail instead of a polling place. Every election whether local, state or national is incredibly important.*

*On August 26th it will be the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment which gave women the right to vote. I hope you got a chance to watch the American Experience documentary **The Vote** about the struggle for women to gain access to voting in the US. I highly recommend it as I was amazed at how long the fight took and how many women today take this right for granted.*

*So, until next time, your mission is to vote by registering or watching the documentary besides wear your mask, wash your hands and stay home. Stay well and healthy.*

*Megan Moser  
President, AAUW Chicago Inc. Branch*

### ***Thank You***

Thank you to the members who attended the planning meetings and helped to shape the 2020-2021 program year. There are many wonderful programs to look forward to. We hope you will put the dates on your calendar and join us. Thank you to Helen Elkiss, Barbara Harris, and Ruth Holst for organizing and hosting the meetings via zoom.



### ***AAUW- IL Agent of Change Award 2020 - Congrats AJ!***

Amy Jo (AJ) Conroy of the Chicago, Inc. Branch was honored as our AAUW-IL 2020 Agent of Change recipient. Normally, this would have been announced at our State Convention.

AJ has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the AAUW mission in a variety of ways over the past few years. She serves as the Public Policy officer of her branch and has made a significant impact on public policy issues in both the city of Chicago and the state of Illinois. Specifically, she has:

- Planned and implemented the showing of the “Equal Means Equal” documentary for the August 2016 launch in Chicago, including securing a viewing location and spearheading the fund-raising campaign to subsidize it – More than 100 women attended
- Provided sustained support for ratification of the ERA in Illinois over a period of years, including important database analysis, a Letter to the Editor in the *Chicago Tribune* (September 2016) and another in the *Chicago Sun Times* (September 2018)
- Spearheaded the effort to produce an ERA Coloring Book for 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders (2018)
- Coordinated a series of WorkSmart workshops in conjunction with LUNA and various hosting organizations such as the YWCA (2017-2018)
- Actively promoted a resolution to rename a portion of Chicago’s Congress Parkway to commemorate anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells (Spring-Summer 2018)
- Served on the organizing committee for the Chicago’s Equal Pay Day Rally (multiple years)
- Consistently applied pressure on the Chicago Public School System to enhance their Title IX resources in light of the sexual harassment crisis made public by the Chicago Tribune (2018-2019)
- Hosted a table at the Young Feminist Conference “Cause the Effect Chicago” (Nov 2019) attended by more than 300 high school and college girls
- Organized multiple Edit-a-thons to promote the inclusion of Illinois women in Wikipedia (2019)

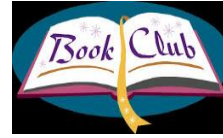
AJ proudly displays her AAUW membership button wherever she goes. For many of the activities mentioned above, she was the AAUW representative on coordinated efforts among multiple women’s organizations. When the League of Women Voters sponsored a mayoral debate in Spring 2019, AJ made sure that AAUW was one of the organizations that got to submit one of the coveted questions for the debate. The series of WorkSmart events held in Chicago gave AAUW a big publicity boost in the community. AJ represents the future of AAUW. Her enthusiasm for advocating for gender equality is unparalleled and she never hesitates to take action when it’s needed. Congratulations, AJ!



### ***Evening Book Club***

The Evening Book Club is on hiatus as the Conrad Sultzter Regional Library in Lincoln Square is not accepting in person group meetings due to COVID-19. As soon as it is possible and safe to meet, we will share the updated book list and dates. The group usually meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7pm. All are welcome as the book club is free and open to the public. Please contact Megan Moser for more info on dates and locations of the book club. [meganmoser@hotmail.com](mailto:meganmoser@hotmail.com)

Evening Book Club list – Dates and locations TBD  
September *Little Men* by Louisa May Alcott  
October *Where did you go Bernadette?* by Marcia Semple ( )  
November *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens  
December no meeting  
January *Shades of Grey* by Jasper Fforde



### ***Daytime Book Club next meeting – Aug. 19***

Do you like to read? If so, join us for daytime book club on **Wednesday, August 19<sup>st</sup>** via zoom. We will be meeting at 10:30am. Please RSVP to Ruth Holst at [holstruth@gmail.com](mailto:holstruth@gmail.com) to be sent the zoom link.

**Our August book is *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes**

Looking ahead –

*September 16 – The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd

*October 21 – The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Feel free to attend online even if you don't have time to read and bring some suggestions for future books. Looking forward to seeing all that are interested! If you have any questions or are interested please contact our book club chair, Leslee Carver, [Leslee.carver@gmail.com](mailto:Leslee.carver@gmail.com)

### ***Treasurer Report***

As of July 15, the balance in our checking account at BMO Harris is \$2,586.47. No outstanding checks. The balance in the Fidelity account is \$12,216.33.

### ***Equal Pay Day 2020 – Oct 27<sup>th</sup>***

Due to COVID-19, there will not be a big rally in Daley Plaza. Decisions about the event are being made and will be released soon. Thank you to branch members AJ Conroy and Barbara Yong for their work over the past year planning and organizing this event, especially with all of the changes due to COVID.

### ***Save the Date – Saturday, November 14 at 10:30am***

Mark your calendar to join us via zoom on Saturday, November 14 at 10:30 am for our annual Fellows and Grantees presentation. We will be co-hosting with the Jane Addams AAUW online branch for our popular annual Fellows Presentation. Speakers to be determined. All are welcome.

### ***Looking Ahead – Tuesday, January 12, 2021***

Save the date and join us on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm (via zoom) Helen Ramirez-Odell, Chicago AAUW member, will host a very special presentation on The Mother Jones Heritage Project. Actor, Brigid Duffy Gerace, will present us to Mother Jones. Helen Ramirez-Odell will discuss project details. Rosemary Feurer, NIU Assoc. Professor of History and Director of the Mother Jones Heritage Project will open discussion and take Q&A.

### ***Update on the Chicago Suffragist Project***

The celebrations about the passage of the 19th Amendment will be an ongoing event. In view of the restrictions stemming from the Pandemic, we are working on scheduled visits to the gravesites of 11 suffragists we know are buried/cremated in Chicago, IL. Signs are being ordered and AAUW volunteers will visit the grave sites starting the last week of August 2020. Currently, three members have volunteered. If any members wishes to participate, please email Eleida M.Gomez at: [amgglo@aol.com](mailto:amgglo@aol.com)

Suggestions have been made to incorporate a DRIVE TO GET OUT THE VOTE CAMPAIGN in conjunction with other organizations. At this point, we are starting with the visit to the grave sites. As other activities unfold, the membership will be informed.



# Chicago, IL. Inc. Branch 2020-2021 Membership Form

The AAUW membership year begins July 1, 2020 and ends June 30, 2021. Annual membership dues are **\$91.00** (\$59.00 for Association, \$22.00 for Chicago Branch, and \$10.00 for AAUW – Illinois). For Association Life members, dues are **\$32.00** (\$22.00 for Chicago Branch and \$10.00 for AAUW – Illinois).

**Please check your type of Membership:**

- Annual \$91-       Association Life \$32-       Undergraduate Student Affiliate \$31.81

**Please make your check payable to AAUW Chicago Inc. Branch**

Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
First/Middle/Last (spouse)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, IL Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (Month/Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)

**College/Universities attended      Degrees Earned      Major/Field of Study**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please check to assist with these committees or branch activities:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Program planning
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting Volunteer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Policy and Legislative Efforts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community Service
- \_\_\_\_\_ Website/Social Media

**SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TO:  
Ruth Holst 645 Kingsbury St., Apt 1709 Chicago, IL 60654**

To guarantee listing in the Chicago, Illinois Branch, Inc. Membership Directory, your renewal must be received by **Tuesday, September 15, 2020.**

### ***Membership Update***

Congratulations on a great summer membership drive! As of August 10th, we have **51** members – **1** of which is new to the branch! Thank you to everyone who has sent in their application and check. For those who haven't sent in your application form and check, it isn't too late to renew or join and be in this year's Membership Directory. All application forms and checks received by **September 15<sup>th</sup>** will appear in the Directory. Please send it to branch treasurer – Ruth Holst [holstruth@gmail.com](mailto:holstruth@gmail.com)

# WELCOME

### ***Welcome New Members!***

Please welcome our newest branch member! Anne joined the branch during the summer membership drive. We are so excited to have her as a member.

Name	Email Address
Anne Foley	<a href="mailto:aelizfoley@gmail.com">aelizfoley@gmail.com</a>

### ***AAUW Chicago Inc. Branch - 2020-2021 Board List***

President: Megan Moser  
Program Vice-Presidents: Helen Elkiss and Barbara Harris  
Secretary: Barbara Harris  
Treasurer: Ruth Holst  
Membership Vice-President: Anita Moore  
Directors at Large: A.J. Conroy, Barbara Spiegel, Eleida Gomez, Barbara Thomas



### ***Branch Officers/Chairs***

In April, we will elect officers that will lead the Branch in the next term (2021-2023). It's not too early to start thinking about what you would like to do in the Branch to be more active. Officers to be elected in April are Program VP, secretary, and two Directors at Large. The various chair positions will be appointed by the President. A Nominating Committee will be appointed this fall. If you would like to serve on the Committee, are interested in serving as an Officer/Chair, or would like to suggest a nominee, please contact Branch President, Megan Moser at [meganmoser@hotmail.com](mailto:meganmoser@hotmail.com)

### ***The Chicago Edition by Lori Switzer***

Is there something you want to see in the newsletter? It is your newsletter. Articles for the Nov/Dec Chicago Edition newsletter are due Oct 15th. Thanks -Lori Switzer 773/230-1063 or [ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com](mailto:ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com)

**Mission Statement of AAUW:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

**Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

**Vision Statement:** AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

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 membership is open to any graduate who holds an associate or equivalent degree from a qualified educational institution or a baccalaureate of higher degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

AAUW's **Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

AAUW National website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

AAUW-IL website: [www.aauw-il.org](http://www.aauw-il.org)

Chicago branch website: <http://chicago-il.aauw.net>

For more information, contact us: [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)

**Join the Chicago branch on Facebook:**

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=16337662299&ref=mf>

**Join the Chicago branch on Instagram:**

<http://www.instragram.com/aauwchicago>



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*Address correction requested*

*Chicago, IL branch was founded in 1889. This is our 131th year!!*