



Join us on Saturday, February 13th at 11:00 am (via zoom) for a virtual discussion on the AAUW webinar

“Is Your Perspective Inclusive?”

https://youtu.be/uQ3_cY5IEbc

The Webinar can be viewed on YouTube or go to www.aauw.org

Please watch the AAUW webinar in advance and we will discuss the webinar on diversity during our time together. Please bring one question to the discussion to share with the group.

Register in advance for this meeting to receive the zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApC-uvqDMsHN2gDCFgTABUsBO17fsujTRF>

Join AAUW’s Sheila Amo for a discussion with Pamela Fuller, Thought Leader of Inclusion and Bias at FranklinCovey, and Dr. Lisette Garcia, Executive Vice President and COO at the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR), to learn more about developing inclusive perspectives.

This webinar was made possible through the generous support of GEICO.

Meeting/Activities Dates and Topics

March
April TBD
April 23-24
May 2

TBD
Chicago Women Architects: Women who designed Chicago’s Beautiful Buildings
AAUW-IL Regional Virtual Convention
Cliff Dwellers Annual Meeting 11:30am

HAPPY NEW YEAR

President's Message

Happy New Year! Our Branch started off with a meeting on January 12th with a Zoom presentation on Mother Jones, who helped organize miners to strike. She was a Chicagoan as well. She lost her dressmaking business in the Great Fire. Our presentation was in coordination with the Working Woman's History Project (WWHP) which is striving to encourage the Mayor's office to erect more statues dedicated to Women. I wrote a letter on the behalf of AAUW in support of this movement. If you would like a copy of the letter please email me and I would be happy to send it to you. The WWHP committee is also looking for individuals to write letters to the Mayor on behalf in their mission. There is also a fund drive as well. Please see their website at www.wwhpchicago.org for more information. Thank you to all who attended the meeting and for your patience as I navigated first time as host on a Zoom call. And much thanks to member Helen Ramirez Odell for organizing. We had over thirty attendees including some from the Pompano Beach, Florida branch and area suburban branches!

February 13th meeting will be a webinar on Zoom. Helen Elkiss and Barbara Harris will be selecting a topic from the AAUW website to discuss. March and April meetings are still in discussion. May's meeting is still planned for a Lunch at Cliff Dwellers which I hope we can do so I can see you all in person! Finally!

*Since it is cold outside which is always a good sign to have a cup of tea and read a good book, check out **The Woman Who Smashed Codes** by Jason Fugate. The book is about Elizabeth Smith Friedman, a codebreaker during World War I & II as well against the Mob. She did some of her work in Geneva, Illinois. Her work was mainly lost to history due to sexism. The book inspired an American Experience episode which is currently on the PBS website.*

Until next time, I wish you all well, joy and happiness in this New Year.

Megan Moser

President, AAUW Chicago Inc. Branch

Thank you

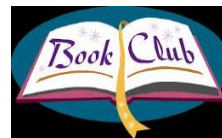
Thank you to Helen Ramirez-Odell, Mary Feurer, and Brigid Gerace for their presentation on Jan.12 on Mother Jones and the Mother Jones Statue Project. Thank you to Megan Moser for organizing the zoom event with Helen Elkiss and Barbara Harris. The Mother Jones Project is hoping the Chicago Branch of AAUW will make a contribution toward the cost of the statue and/or individual members will make a contribution. Branch President Megan Moser wrote a great letter to Mayor Lightfoot in support of the Mother Jones statue and the committee is very grateful. Go to <https://www.motherjonesmuseum.org/statue> for more information on the statue and to make a donation and help spread the word.



Evening Book Club

The Evening Book Club is on hiatus as the Conrad Sultz 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 4th 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



Daytime Book Club next meeting – January 20

Do you like to read? If so, join us for daytime book club on **Wednesday, January 20** via zoom. We will be meeting at 1:00pm. **January 20 - A Long Petal of the Sea - Isabel Allende**

2021

February 17 -This Tender Land - William Kent Krueger

March 17 - Small Great Things - Jodi Picoult

Register in advance for this meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcud-6orj0pE9dm6-zkUsOXEtyx3HtT_M4

Feel free to attend online even if you don't have time to read and bring some suggestions for future books. If you have any questions or are interested please contact our book club chair, Lori Switzer chicagoaauw@hotmail.com

Lilly Ledbetter Act Brings Justice to Indiana Teacher – by AJ Conroy, Public Policy Chair

Since we could all do with some good news, let's turn to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, located in Chicago. In January, they reversed a district court which had dismissed a teacher's claim of sex-based wage discrimination as being too far in the past. When the high school teacher was hired in 2006, she was offered \$32,000 as an annual salary. This seemed low given her master's degree and 10 years of experience of teaching. The school's director told her that since her husband had a good job, she didn't need a better salary. The district court agreed with the school that the teacher had waited too long to file a claim. AAUW members likely remember that this was the reason Lilly Ledbetter's case was lost at the Supreme Court level. The 2009 Lilly Ledbetter Act Fair Pay Act was a legislative fix for the Supreme Court's narrow interpretation of the Equal Pay Act. AAUW lobbied hard for this change. Now, Cheryl Kellogg's case is revived to be heard on the merits. Congratulations Cheryl and AAUW!

Important Vote for AAUW Bylaws – Amendment to open membership-Spring 2021

This spring, the AAUW membership will vote on an important proposal to amend the AAUW bylaws to open membership and eliminate the degree requirement to join AAUW. The national AAUW Board of Directors strongly supports the proposal, along with member leaders across the country. We believe this is an essential step toward making AAUW a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with our mission, values and the needs of women today. Our full statement on the issue appears below.

Now through February 5, 2021, you can provide thoughts and comments on the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws as well as proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities. To learn more about the proposed changes, please visit the election page on the AAUW website. www.aauw.org

AAUW Board of Directors Statement on Open Membership

The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to educational attainment for all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that, while the degree requirement made perfect

sense at AAUW’s inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

Members can comment on the proposed amendment from January 11 through February 5, 2021. Voting will open on April 7 and close May 17, 2021.

We encourage respectful debate, which has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community. Please send any comments to let the Board know of your thoughts on this proposal and exercise your vote this spring.

Second Quarter Budget Report from Treasurer Ruth Holst

Organization Name: AAUW Chicago, INC						
Budget Report Comparing FY21 Budget to Actual						
Fiscal Year Period: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021						
	FY21 Budget	FY 21 Actual	FY 21 Actual	FY 21 Actual	FY 21 Actual	FY 21 Actual
	Annual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
Revenue						
Dues	\$ 1,210	\$ 503	\$ 132	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 635
Donations for Program Expenses	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations from Members	\$ 100	\$ 10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10
Grant from AAUW-IL	\$ -		\$ 150			\$ 150
Transfer from Investment (Marston)	\$ 800		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 2,160	\$ 513	\$ 282	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 795
Expenses						
Insurance	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 196	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 196
State of Illinois	\$ 13		\$ 10			\$ 10
Printing, Supplies and Postage	\$ 100	\$ 124	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 144
Membership Recruitment	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Program Events Expenses	\$ 375	\$ 33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33
Program Planning Meetings	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Public Policy Expenses	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contribution for AAUW Nat'l Funds	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500
Contribution for LAF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Communications Software	\$ 325	\$ -	\$ 163	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 163
Convention Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other/Misc. Expenses	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -				\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 2,163	\$ 157	\$ 889	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,047
Quarter	\$ 2,551	\$ 2,887	\$ 2,280	\$ -		
Quarter	\$ 11,857	\$ 12,395	\$ 13,550	\$ -		



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

Membership Update

Congratulations on a great membership drive! As of December 1st, we have **60** members – **5** are new to the branch! Thank you to everyone who has sent in their application and check. If you have not renewed, please send it to branch treasurer – Ruth Holst holstruth@gmail.com

WELCOME

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome our newest branch member! We are so excited to have Toni as a new member.

Name	Email Address
Toni Scott	toni.scott7@mycampus.apus.edu

The Chicago Edition by Lori Switzer

Is there something you want to see in the newsletter? It is your newsletter. Articles for the March/April Chicago Edition newsletter are due Feb. 15th. Thanks -Lori Switzer 773/230-1063 or 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

AAUW-IL website: www.aauw-il.org

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

For more information, contact us: 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>



Lori Switzer, editor
AAUW Newsletter
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Address correction requested

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