



Rep. Robin Kelly

Join us on Tuesday, March 16th at 1:00pm – 1:30pm via zoom

Zoom Program with IL House Rep. Robin Kelly’s office discussing U.S. House Bill #4: Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019

Speaker: Nicole Varner, Health Policy Advisor and General Counsel

Nicole is responsible for healthcare and Judiciary issues and serve as the staff liaison for the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust and the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls. Varner joins the team from the Office of Congressman Marc Veasey (TX-33), where she served as his Legislative Director. She obtained her JD from Loyola University New Orleans and B.A. from Oglethorpe University.

Sign up to receive the Zoom link.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvfuqsrTsvEtft0hQoadmNuB841T_SVBbD

Rep. Robin Kelly Biography: Congresswoman Robin Kelly has dedicated her career to public service as an advocate for Illinois families. Since being elected to serve the 2nd Congressional District in 2013, she has worked to expand economic opportunity, community wellness, and public safety across the state, championing numerous initiatives to generate job growth, reduce health disparities, and end gun violence.

Congresswoman Kelly is a Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee (the main policy-writing body of the House) and serves on the Health, Energy, and Consumer Protection and Commerce subcommittees. Her Energy and Commerce work is focused on expanding access to healthcare, consumer protection for American families and economic development.

Meeting/Activities Dates and Topics

April 17
April 23-24
June

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



President's Message

Hello! I hope you are surviving the Pandemic not to mention this winter which appears to be lasting forever.

Much thanks to Helen Elkiss and Barbara Harris for putting our February meeting together. We discussed inclusion based on a video, attendees watched prior that was produced by AAUW and sponsored by GEICO. It was a lively discussion via Zoom. A committee was suggested to improve upon our policies of inclusion in our Branch. Hopefully, a committee will be put together this Spring. If you are interested, please let me know. AAUW national has been having webinars about certain topics which are taped and then a You Tube link is added to the website a few days after the webinar. Please check out these talks as they are quite informative.

In other news of the Branch, our March meeting will be with Illinois Representative Robin Kelly's office to discuss the Voting Rights Act. Our April meeting will be with the Chicago Architectural Zoom discussion. Our annual May meeting has moved to June in hopes of meeting either indoors at a large space or outside.

Also, we will have elections for upcoming term as we will need VP Programs, Secretary, and two Directory-at-a-Large. If you would like to help, please let me know.

State news is that the convention will be held on Zoom this year. On April 17th will be the State Annual Fellows meeting which will also be held on Zoom. The meeting will feature all of our Fellows from our November meeting so if you couldn't attend our meeting, I hope you can attend this one. The Fellows are from a wide assortment of backgrounds and fields of study.

National news is that the dues will be going up \$3 for the 2021-22 year. The big topic for National is our voting on an amendment to the bylaws stating that a degree is no longer required. Our name wouldn't change just the bylaws. There is much discussion online from the Town Hall earlier in the month. If you would like to hear or read the discussion, please check out the AAUW website under search. Voting will begin April 7th.

As we slowly proceed to the Spring where COVID vaccines will be plentiful (I can dream, can't I?) and things will start moving to sense of normalcy, please remain strong, vigilant, and ever faithful in this strange, wonderful world we live in.

Megan Moser
President, AAUW Chicago Inc. Branch

Thank you

Thank you to Helen Elkiss and Barbara Harris for organizing and leading the branch program and discussion on “Is our perspective inclusive?” We had a nice turnout of members as well as a AAUW member from Sacramento CA who shared the initiatives she is working on with her branch on diversity and inclusion. The branch will be continuing this discussion in relation to our branch Strategic Plan and the recently published AAUW National Diversity and Inclusion toolkit. If you would like to be on the committee, please contact Megan Moser meganmoser@hotmail.com

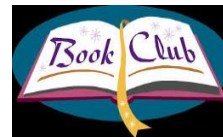
Looking Ahead to April

We will be hosting a zoom event on April 17 with Susan King from Chicago Women Architects. The presentation will be " Women Architects Who Built our City" Please save the date and plan on attending this special program on Women in Architecture.



Evening Book Club

The Evening Book Club is on hiatus as the Conrad Sultzer Regional Library is not accepting in person group meetings due to COVID-19. As soon as it is 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 – March 17

Do you like to read? If so, join us for daytime book club on **Wednesday, March 17** via zoom. We will be meeting at 1:00pm. **March 17 - Small Great Things - Jodi Picoult**
Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkc-iurjlvHNNHkXX-V0RTQRwXuN0RgMWJ>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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

Clocks and the 28th Amendment by AJ Conroy, Chicago Branch

2020 had some great news for AAUW members. Virginia ratified the Equal Rights Amendment in January 2020. Then, the House of Representatives voted to acknowledge ratification in February 2020. Meanwhile, the Archivist was sued to stop him from “publishing” the ERA as the 28th Amendment. Eek!

Where do things stand now? Rosy. Advocates are still seeking a resolution from Congress to “bless” the ERA. This is what happened for the 27th Amendment in the 1990s which took 200 years to ratify (aka the Madison Amendment). The courts may continue to move slowly, but advocates are pushing the Archivist to return to his original promise and publish.

What can you do? Plenty! Contact your senators to vote for **SJRes1** to affirm the ERA. Looking for something fun? Me too. Send a clock. No, seriously. The group VoteEqualityUS is coordinating a

craftivist campaign playing on the theme of “time” and sending clocks to Congress (without batteries, of course!). There are coloring pages, patterns, etc. For details, visit www.voteequality.us/clocks.

I’m available to answer any questions.

AJ

AAUW-Chicago

@ERAillinois

312-405-4548 cell



***AAUW-IL District 5 - Educational Opportunities Fund
14th Annual Fellows Presentation
Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:00 p.m.***

If you missed our November Fellows program, District 5 is hosting a 2020-2021 Fellows and Grantees program on April 17th. Please mark your calendars and watch for further information.

· Marquitta Dorsey, American Fellowship, Loyola University, Social Work, a Publication Grant focusing on elevating the voices of Black adolescent females about sexual health and sexual activity.

· Kate Brunk, Director, YWCA McLean County, Community Action Grant: YW Strive Program for women who have experienced incarceration, providing skills and education to reduce barriers to gainful employment

· *Kelly Fair, Director, Reflections Foundation. Community Action Grant: Pink Hard Hats. Mentoring program for low-income African-American and Latina girls.*

· *Michelle Friedner, American Fellowship, U of Chicago, Anthropology and Archaeology. Postdoctoral program. Project focusing on Becoming Normal: Deafness, Cochlear Implants, and Sensory infrastructures in India.*

SAVE THE DATE! April 23 - 24

Our Illinois State Convention is going virtual! The global pandemic robbed us of so much in 2020, including the experience of attending the much-anticipated Regional Conference. On April 23-24, using the Zoom platform, we will be able to gather to hear wonderful speakers and have our annual business meeting with no hotel booking or travel. The meeting theme will revolve around reframing our future and focusing for impact to achieve AAUW goals. Speakers will be on topics of STEM, Female Engineers, Diversity, and Pay Equity. Guests include a member of the State legislature and Ida B Wells Granddaughter.

Nothing can replace the joy of a face-to-face AAUW meeting. But I hope all members will attend our virtual experience. Details will follow in the spring edition of *The Link* due out in March.

STATE BOARD VOTES FOR OPEN MEMBERSHIP

The AAUW National Board issued a statement that strongly supports the elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for membership vote April 7 - May 17. All eligible voters will receive an email that will provide an individual link to vote. Voters without a valid email on file will be sent voting instructions via snail mail.

Please view this webinar discussion for more information on the topic that was recently held last month. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=911N-YLsnD4&feature=youtu.be>

It answers a lot of questions has changed quite a few members minds on their feeling for open membership. 50-year life member Kathie Mallow watched the webinar and is now in favor of open membership. As much as she values her degree and the work she put into graduating from college, she is going to vote for open membership. And for those of us who know Kathie, this is a big decision and big change from her thinking for the past 50 years.

While AAUW is fiercely committed to the educational attainment of all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do. The AAUW-IL., Inc. Board of Directors has unanimously voted to support approval of the proposed amendment. We welcome questions and discussion and urge all members to exercise their right to vote! Lisa Cherry, President – AAUW-IL

Budget Report from Treasurer Ruth Holst

Date: 2/5/21

Checking Account

Balance 12/31/20	\$2,279.82
Deposits	10.00
Withdrawals	0
Balance 1/31/21	\$2,289.82

Investment Account

Balance 1/31/21	\$13,822.96
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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. 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

As of March 1st, we have **61** members – **6** 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

Getting to Know Our Members

Carla Funk - I'm retired after serving as the Executive Director of the Medical Library Association, headquartered in Chicago, for over two decades. I love to garden and volunteer as a North Pond Gardener for the Lincoln Park Conservancy (LPC). Besides gardening, I'm actively involved in the LPC's campaign to restore North Pond so it can continue to support wildlife as well as be enjoyed by residents and visitors. I currently serve on several Boards of Directors and am the president of The Cliff Dwellers, a 100+ year old arts club located across from the Art Institute. I enjoy lifelong learning and take classes at the Newberry Library (now virtual) on topics such as literature, history, and music. I have become Zoom proficient during COVID-19 as have many others and I've been impressed with how quickly the organizations that I'm involved with have adapted to this "new normal", with both virtual and hybrid meetings and programs. I do miss seeing family and friends face-to-face though as does everyone else and hope by 2022 that the virus will be only a memory. I look forward to getting involved with AAUW Chicago Branch.

Rebecka Sexton - I work in innovation strategy at Health Care Services Corporation (HCSC) leading our future efforts to explore new technologies and experiences. We have been working very intensely (at home) on COVID response solutions during the pandemic. A lot of my energy has gone into getting solutions out the door during the pandemic. I live downtown. I have been in Chicago since 1995 when I moved here to teach sculpture and metalsmithing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. I have been entertaining myself through activism, connecting with old friends, hanging out with my stepson, walking, reading, cooking, music, art making and yoga.

Diana Slaviero - I am a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and visual artist, who splits time between Chicago and the suburbs. I've been running my own private practice since 2009. Currently, my office is located in Aurora, although most of my sessions are teletherapy appointments right now. My great love is making mixed media collages. I spend as much time in my studio in the Fine Arts Building and in the city of Chicago as possible.

This is an important time to be a helping professional, as well as an artist, as the whirlwind of crises we currently face is escalating the distress that so many of us feel. This is a critical time to be aware of the pressures that social, political and structural inequality place on people every day and to strive to do better, personally and as a society.

Now, more than ever, we need to work to implement the sorts of changes that AAUW has a long history of advocating. I've been a National Member of AAUW since 1995. I joined during my senior year at

Illinois State University, where I graduated with a B.S. (Psychology major, Women's Studies minor). I earned my M.A. and Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Southern Illinois University.

One of the most satisfying jobs I ever had was serving as the Interim Director of Women's Studies at Eastern Illinois University. That was such a fantastic position in so many ways. I taught, "Women, Men & Culture" classes. I also got to oversee the Women's Studies minor, as well as the campus Women's Resource Center, which served as a meeting place for the student group dedicated to gender issues and the local AAUW branch. I also got to coordinate planning for Women's History Month and the Living History Project, through which EIU students go to elementary schools in costume to share stories of women in history. I am happy to report that those programs are still going strong at EIU, through Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

WELCOME

Welcome New Members!

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

Name	Email Address
Diana Slaviero	drdiana@hushmail.com

2021-2022 Branch membership renewal opens April 1st

Please see attached form for your membership renewal for the 2021-2022 program year. There is a National dues increase of \$3- for the year that was voted on by the AAUW national Board of Directors in the fall. The national dues are not \$63- (with \$59- tax deductible) and then branch and state of IL dues are \$32-. Please let Anita or Ruth know if you have any questions regarding membership and renewals.

The Chicago Edition by Lori Switzer

Is there something you want to see in the newsletter? It is your newsletter. Articles for the April/May Chicago Edition newsletter are due March 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!!