

The Chicago Edition

December 2021/January 2022

Volume 83, Number 4



Hello!

I hope you got a chance to Zoom in on our November meeting. The November meeting is always our most attended meeting due to it being with our local recipients or Fellows of the AAUW scholarships. This year we were honored with three fellows: Melissa Mister from After School Matters for the AAUW Community Action Grant, Ramael Ohiomoba of Northwestern University School of Medicine for the AAUW Selected Professions Fellowship, and Jenny Lopez Alvarado of Loyola University Chicago for the AAUW Career Development Grant. Congrats on your achievements. This event was attended by 44 people this year from branches across the state. Thank you also to the Jane Addams branch for hosting, Helen Elkiss for contacting the Fellows as well as the Chicago Branch for facilitating. But most of all thank you for all that donate to AAUW so these scholarships can exist and help all woman succeed in the workforce as well as the world.

Our No Dinner-Dinner yearly fundraiser is in full swing. If you haven't already donated, please do so. You can contact Lori Switzer for more information. This donation is currently helping National with the greatest of needs at the organization.

There are no events scheduled for December or January at this time. Our next meeting will be in February. Please be on the lookout for that announcement. Also, the Jane Addams Branch as well as other branches also hosts meetings on Zoom. I will forward those to you once I'm aware of them. Please feel free to join those events as they are quite informative. I will also forward information on the Spring conference once it becomes available.

The Holiday season is quickly approaching. I wish you and yours a happy, festive and safe holiday season. Until next year...

Megan Moser

AAUW, Chicago President

Meeting/Activities Dates and Topics

December – no meeting
December 10 – Annual Jane Addams Day
January 2022 – no meeting
Spring 2022 – TBD
May 6-7 - AAUW-IL state convention in Lisle/Naperville Area
May - Chicago Branch annual meeting - TBD



2021 AAUW-IL Virtual Fall Leadership Conference Recap

Ninety-five branch members from across the state attended the Fall Leadership Conference on October 30, 2021. We are becoming pros at using Zoom and even divided into seven affinity groups for meetings with our colleagues from other branches.

The conference opened with a State of the State message from President Lisa Cherry as well as an update on changes at National, with the appointment of Gloria Blackwell, as our new CEO. The 140th Anniversary of AAUW is on November 17 (more information below). Key highlights at the state level include our survival despite the pandemic, the renewed assault on women, and other challenges. We can thrive through the use of the 5 Star program to help our branches be more effective, use of resources provided by the National Website, and renewed interest in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at the State Board and branch level. We can look forward to the State Convention on May 6th and 7th in Lisle.

Our keynote speaker was Deanie Brown, the Chief Diversity Officer for the Illinois Court System, a newly created position. Her topic “Who Do You Think I Am?” led us through information about unconscious assumptions and how these play out in our daily lives and in our perceptions of others and theirs of us. Her talk was timely and enlightening. If you are interested in having Deanie speak with your branch, she has offered to do so. She is also hosting a Diversity Book Group with the Springfield branch every other month – November, January, March, and May (more information below).

Kristin Olson, grant writing consultant and fundraising expert, provided us with useful insights about the top five fundraising activities and how our branch efforts compare (based on a recent summary from branch presidents). Our direct sales approach does not unfortunately make the top five list, because it is too labor intensive. We should spend more time on cultivating sponsors and community donors and making our names known in our communities.

State Board Officers facilitated discussion groups with their branch counterparts and provided guidance as well as opportunities to share best practices among the state-wide branches. Members who attended included recent joiners as well as a 61-year member (Barbara Wyne). Nearly every branch sent representatives.

Public Policy Update

Paula Purdue – November 2021

The Illinois legislature has just completed a very busy 2021 Veto Session in Springfield. The key win for AAUW was that we supported HB 307, the repeal of the Parental Notification of Abortion Act. This bill

was very difficult to pass and only received support from Democratic legislators, but it removes the last hurdle for abortions from the Illinois Statutes. As women, we are so lucky to live in Illinois. I am hopeful that in the next legislature we can get support for our issues from both parties.

Looking forward, I'm asking that you all take action to help find co-sponsors for a new Illinois Senate bill that will require employers to pay a small percentage (less than 1%) of an employee's pay into a statewide insurance policy. The lead sponsor on SB 835 is Ram Villivalam, and the bill is known as the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act. The bill is being negotiated as we speak and once it's funded, will allow employees to use these insurance funds to take a leave for medical or family issues such as the birth or adoption of a child or to care for a family member. The bill is very important because it addresses a key inequality issue in the workplace. Women fall behind men in terms of compensation and retirement benefits because as primary care-givers, they often must take leave or quit their jobs for family matters. Please ask your Senator to co-sponsor SB 835. If you don't know how to reach your state senator, go to ILGA.gov and click on Senate – Members. You can find your state district number on your Voter Registration card. Call me at 217-299-1981 if you have questions. (I am out of the country from Nov 20-Dec 12)

I am interested in establishing a Public Policy Team for the Chicago Branch and want to hear from Branch members who are willing to join me in monitoring legislative sessions and meeting with our AAUW lobbyist via Zoom meetings. Ideally, this Public Policy Team would consist of 3-5 members working with me to contact legislators and engage in activities to move the AAUW Public Policy Agenda forward. The Team would work in consort with our coalition partner groups for some of the activities. Please phone me at 217-299-1981 or send an email to paulapatchwork@gmail.com to let me know your interest or to find out more about this Branch opportunity.

First Quarter Treasurer's Report - Fiscal Year 2022

Checking Account

Balance 6/30/21 \$3,676

Deposits 566

Withdrawals 1,250

Balance 9/30/21 \$2,992

Investment Account (Marsten)

Balance 6/30/21 \$14,430

Balance 9/30/21 \$14,423

Evening Book Club

The Evening Book Club is on hiatus as the Conrad Sultz Regional Library is not accepting in person group meetings due to COVID-19. The group usually meets the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm. Please contact Megan Moser for more info on dates and locations of the book club. meganmoser@hotmail.com

Daytime Book Club next meeting – Wed. December 15

Do you like to read? If so, join us for daytime book club on December 15 via zoom. We will be meeting at 1:00pm. **We will discuss** *Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society* - Amy Hill Hearth

When: Dec 15, 2021 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYsdu2rrDspH9a1RD58UkAEq6iEwoGzJLwR>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting
2022

Jan 19: *The Personal Librarian* - Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Feb 16: *The Plot: A Novel* - Jean Hanff Korelitz

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

14th Annual No- Dinner Dinner Fundraiser – October 1-December 1, 2021

Again, this year – we are supporting National AAUW Greatest Need Fund for our fourteenth annual No-Dinner Dinner fundraiser. An invitation to the non-event fundraiser has been mailed out. Hope you are able participate. Our branch goal is \$2,000- this year which breaks down to \$35- a member. Thanks for your support at any amount. A Big **THANK YOU** to the members who have donated so far. We have raised \$600- so far.

Branch Officers/Chairs

In April, we will elect officers that will lead the Branch in the next term (2022-2024). 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 President, Treasurer, Membership 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.

The Chicago Edition by Lori Switzer

Is there something you want to see in the newsletter? It is your newsletter. Articles for the December/January Chicago Edition newsletter are due January 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.instagram.com/aauwchicago>



Lori Switzer, editor

AAUW Newsletter

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Address correction requested

Chicago, IL branch was founded in 1889. This is our 132nd year!!