



Chicago Branch Year End Annual Meeting

Join us as we meet to recap the 2021-2022 program year with officer elections, a recap from the state convention, and program planning for the fall. Feel free to bring a friend or reach out to a member to come with you. We have not seen each other for a while now and look forward to catching up. We ask that attendees are vaccinated. Thanks in advance.

Saturday, June 25, 2022

11:30am – 1:00pm

Athena Greek Restaurant 212 S Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60661

Free Valet Parking

We will be ordering off the menu and you will pay your own way. Try a Greek Salad, Saganaki, Chicken Kababs, Spanakopita, or Gyros.

RSVP to Megan Moser by Thursday, June 23 at

meganmoser@hotmail.com



President's Message

This is my last newsletter message as President. The last two years have been trying at best. Having to pivot from normal in-person meetings to Zoom was different and challenging but we still functioned as a branch. I never thought I would have lived through or survived a pandemic. I thought those types of things

happened in different eras or places. Things have forever been changed. It's hard to imagine what all of our lives were two years ago. But one thing remained, the AAUW mission of equity. The fight for women's place at any and all tables is becoming an uphill battle as once trusted decisions could be overturned and set back decades. I encourage all members, friends of members, spouses/significant others, and family to either renew or begin membership with AAUW or any women's rights organization so this fight can be resolved once and for all in our favor for equity.

I thank all of the Board members for their encouragement and support over the last two years. I will continue on as a board member in Membership so I'm not leaving AAUW but I will be in a different capacity.

As always, stay safe and well. - Megan Moser

Branch Members -

We wanted to share with you information regarding our slate of officers. We have had a hard time filling the officer positions for the past term and upcoming term especially the president and program positions. The Board of Directors has been researching alternative leadership options. Board members have also spoken to other branch leaders around the country. The option we would like to use moving forward is a Steering Committee. This leadership model involves a committed group of people who meet on a regular basis, with individual members taking responsibility for specific roles. We currently have people to fill the roles of secretary, treasurer, membership, communications and public policy. We will continue to plan programs as a group and make any big decisions as a group. Please let us know if you have any questions or if you would like to join the Steering Committee. At this time, we are asking Committee members to make a one-year commitment beginning July 1, 2022.

Thank you

Thank you to Public Policy Chair Paula Purdue for presenting at our April program held at the Menlo branch library. We had a great recap of the passing of the ERA in Illinois with information on the key state senators and representatives who made this happen in Illinois. Also, we discussed the status of the ERA today and what needs to be done to ratify the amendment.

The Rally for Abortion Justice – May 14, 2022

AAUW was part of a coalition rally held in Chicago's Union Park on May 14 to protest the leaked draft from the Supreme Court revealed the court's intention to completely overturn Roe v. Wade, leaving millions of people across our country without legal access to essential health care. We are furious that the Supreme Court plans to ignore half a century of settled law and we know you are, too. Right now, abortion is still legal under Roe — and we'll keep fighting to keep it that way. Branch Officer Ruth Holst attended the rally as well as Riverside branch officer Diane Balin, who was on stage representing AAUW during the event.



The Rally for Abortion Justice Coalition: ACLU of Illinois, American Association of University Women, Brave Space Alliance, Chicago Abortion Fund, Chicago DSA, Chicago for Abortion Rights, Chicago NOW, Chicago Women Take Action, CTU Women's Rights Committee, Democratic Women of McDonough County, DuPage County NOW, Equality Illinois, Gay Liberation Network, Illinois Democratic Women, Illinois Juneteenth Committee, Illinois NOW, Illinois SEIU State Council, Illinois Single Payer Coalition, Indivisible Chicago, Indivisible Illinois, Indivisible Illinois - Social Justice Alliance, Indivisible Oak Park Area, Macomb Pride, McHenry County NOW, Men4Choice, Midwest Access Project, National Council of Jewish Women-Chicago North Shore, National Council of Jewish Women-South Cook, North/Northwest Suburban Chicago NOW, Personal PAC, Planned Parenthood Illinois Action, Planned Parenthood of Illinois, Racial Justice Coalition of West Central IL, Reproductive Health Access Project, Reproductive Transparency Now!, She Votes Illinois, Whole Woman's Health Alliance, Women's Bar Association of Illinois, Women's March Chicago

2022-2023 Membership Renewals – NOW OPEN

Branch membership renewals started May 1st. There has been an increase in the national dues to \$67- per a cost-of-living increase. The dues for 2022-23 will be \$99- for national, state and branch dues and you are able to renew online via the Community Hub portal or mail a check to Ruth Holst, branch treasurer. The form is online <https://chicago-il.aauw.net/files/2022/05/AAUW-2022-membership-renewal.pdf>

AAUW National – NEW Website – Community Hub

The new AAUW Community Hub is every member’s personal portal into AAUW. It allows people to self-manage their membership, donations, contact details and personal preferences. President/administrators, membership VPs and finance officers all have the same rights in Community Hub, giving volunteers the flexibility to share in dues and donation processing, updating contact information for members, updating officers, and requesting AAUW to file with the IRS.

Access these features through your personal snapshot, under MY AFFILIATIONS > click the blue button next to the affiliate name > then select MANAGE ROSTER.

Please log in and create a new password and access your account.

Don’t Miss AAUW Emails

Help us help other volunteers who report not receiving AAUW emails by directing them to visit <https://aauw.us/emailoptions> to update their preferences and get back on the AAUW email list.

2022-2023 Branch Program Planning Meetings

Please join us at the home of Helen Elkiss on Wednesday, June 29 at 6:30pm for a program planning meeting. 1081 S. Park Terrace Chicago IL 60605 (312) 316-6229 cell phone. Light snacks will be served. Please bring ideas for topics, speakers, and meeting locations. RSVP to Helen by phone, text or email. Plenty of guest parking. Please RSVP to Helen Elkiss if you are able to attend. helkiss@comcast.net

Our second program planning meeting will be over zoom on Wed. July 20 at 7:00pm.

When: Jul 20, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMof-CgqT4iEtDBBo8GA9Ox1FeSb8AFGskv>

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

97TH STATE CONVENTION: TOGETHER AGAIN WITH A POWERFUL AGENDA!

More than one hundred people registered for the 97th Annual State Convention of AAUW-IL on May 6 & 7, 2022 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Lisle, IL. The Chicago Inc branch had eight members attend, AJ Conroy, Ruth Holst, Jeane Lindeke, Megan Moser, Jenni Purdue, Paula Purdue, Ruth Sweester, and Lori Switzer were in attendance.

Friday evening began with happy hour, but the main event was a virtual update from AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell. Gloria provided updates on many programs but here are a few highlights. AAUW has scheduled an event on June 23rd to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the federal law that requires schools to devote equal resources for girls and young women. She also described **STEMEd** for Girls, a new program, returning this summer, for girls in middle and high school, with a particular focus on girls of color. She also talked about **Money Smart**, a new series of three workshops on financial literacy. **Start Smart** continues with increased emphasis on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other minority-serving institutions. The 2022 **NCCWSL** (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) will be a virtual conference on May 24-26 and will feature keynote speaker Nikole Hannah-Jones, Pulitzer-Prize-winning creator of "The 1619 Project" and a staff writer at New York Times Magazine.

The program organizers also presented a heart-warming documentary entitled "*Queen of Basketball*" about Lusia Harris, one of America's greatest living women's basketball great players. The documentary is available for viewing on You-Tube.

Saturday's agenda began with keynote speaker Julie Strauss who provided an excellent overview of how social media is transforming our democracy. This was followed by a Diversity and Inclusion Panel that included Drs. Harriet Hope Lewis, Rebecca Gordan, Geneace Williams and Donna Kiel each talking about a different aspect of the topic.

The business meeting was held in conjunction with lunch, at which Chicago Branch members were key participants. Jenni Purdue talked about the state legislative agenda and A.J. Conroy provided an ERA update. To follow-up on the convention, AJ Conroy provided some links for members: 1. a video of my presentation is available here: www.eraillinois.org/update.html 2. The AAUW two-minute activist for the ERA - www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/era/ Ruth Holst was installed as Finance Director-Elect for AAUW-IL. Deanie Brown, of the Springfield Branch, received the 2022 Agent of Change Award for her work promoting diversity and inclusion.

The afternoon program brought us a panel on branch development that featured members from the Elgin and Naperville branches. This was followed by an overview of the challenges to intellectual freedom being faced by school boards and libraries around the country. Joyce McIntosh stepped in at the last minute to do this presentation on behalf of the American Library Association.

The meeting ended around 4:30 as we watched our beloved President, Megan Moser, win not one, but TWO raffle items during the closing activities.

AAUW Public Affairs News, Paula Purdue, Public Policy Chair

I am sure that all of you have heard about the leaked draft reversing Roe v Wade. Ruth Holst attended the Pro-Choice Rally on Sat. May 14. She and Diane Balin took some great pictures. We have a very troubling future ahead and anxiously await the final opinion of the Supreme Court.

For lots of reasons, including the maintenance of the United States democracy, the upcoming election is so important. As we learn more, I will be happy to keep you informed. It seems like we have worked so hard to maintain the rights of women but the hard work never ends.

Daytime Book Club next meeting – Wed. June 15

Do you like to read? If so, join us for daytime book club on June 15 via zoom. We will be meeting at 1:00pm. **We will discuss *Dreamland* by Sam Quinones**

July 20 – *Neverwhere* by Neil Gaiman

Aug 17 – *Vanderbilt: Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* by Anderson Cooper & Katherine Howe

Sept 21– *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson

You are invited to a Zoom meeting of the Chicago AAUW Book Group.

When: Jun 15, 2022 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZYode-tpjwE9bC0lv5ia0Trd5ns8mQdWnX>

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

Membership Awards

Please celebrate these long time AAUW members on their dedication to AAUW.

5 Year Member

Candace Crawford

10 Year Member

Barbara Harris

Paula Purdue

40 Year Member

Donna Zimmerman

50 Year Member

Bettye Grand Pre

Jeane Lindeke

Condolences

On May 14th friends and family joined together to honor Helen Ramirez Odell who passed away in March. She was a powerful force in the union community for her work in the Chicago Teacher's Union and for all school nurses. She also was a participant in the Coalition of Labor Union Women and was a founding member of Working Women's History Project. She was honored in the State Assembly when State Senator Ram Villivalam read her accomplishments into record. Also, her local alderman read a decree into the city council for her achievements in the city. Union songs were sung, and tears were shed for a dear friend and an amazing person. Helen will be greatly missed. If you wish to donate to one of her favorite charities in honor of her, the charities are American Cancer Society, NAMI (mental health) Ann Kiley Center for developmental disabilities, and the Mother Jones Statue fund.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/chicagotribune/name/helen-ramirez-odell-obituary?id=33897094>

Slate of Officers Chicago branch

See below our nominations for our slate of officers for the upcoming 2022-2024 term. We will be accepting the slate at our June meeting.

Administrative – Lori Switzer

President – run by Steering Committee

VP Finance – Ruth Holst

VP Membership – Megan Moser

VP Programs – run by program planning committee

Secretary – Barbara Harris

Directors at Large – Anne Foley and Margaret O'Hara (2022-2024)

Donna Zimmerman and Lori Switzer (2021-2023)

The Chicago Edition by Lori Switzer

Is there something you want to see in the newsletter? It is your newsletter. Articles for the September Chicago Edition newsletter are due August 1st. 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>



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Address correction requested

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