



## Let's Talk Illinois Public Policy with Rep. Collins

Join us for a virtual event with Illinois House Representative Lakesia Collins

**Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. via zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89078452926?pwd=SEtITXM5dmRRcEdpcmRCa2RBtRNdz09>

Chicago Branch member and AAUW-IL state lobbyist, Jenni Purdue, believes Rep. Collins is an amazing legislator for the 9<sup>th</sup> District. Rep. Lakesia Collins will join us for a zoom program to share her views and what it is like being an African American women legislator in Illinois. We have asked her to share her views on various legislation AAUW has supported. AAUW-IL Public Policy Chair, Chicago Branch member, and former lobbyist, Paula Purdue will moderate the discussion and Q and A. We hope you will join in the discussion and please invite a friend or colleague to participate.

Lakesia Collins, a Chicago native, was raised by her grandmother who was a stroke survivor. As a result, addressing the needs of others has become part of her DNA. After graduating from Proviso East High School, Lakesia pursued her passion to care for others and acquired certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and provided years of service to residents in several Chicago nursing homes. A single mother of three boys, Lakesia is keenly aware of the needs of Black and Brown communities and the need to provide safe areas, particularly for young males. While working in those nursing homes, Lakesia felt the impact that issues like low staffing levels and heavy workloads had on the quality-of-care workers were able to deliver to residents. She also felt the impact low wages for the type of labor had on workers. Lakesia's guiding principle? "I was born with the gift of compassion and will continue to do my part to improve the lives of others to secure a future that works for all."

For more information, contact [ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com](mailto:ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com) or <https://chicago-il.aauw.net/>.

## **President's Message**

*Happy New Year! I hope that your holidays were festive and relaxing.*

*Many of us resolve to change bad habits, create new ones, or engage with our family and friends in new ways. I hope you will include AAUW in your resolutions and renew your commitment to support equity for women and girls and the Chicago branch. Hope you plan on attending one more event than you did last year.*

*We hope you will join an upcoming program and share the information with your friends, colleagues and other like-minded organizations. We are also looking to fill some positions on our Executive Board – Secretary, VP programming and two directors at large for the 2023-2025 term. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out. We will continue to work with a Steering Committee for the upcoming year.*

*We are looking for volunteers to help plan our June Annual Meeting. Please let me know if you can help scout out some locations and plan menus. Tentatively looking at June 10th.*

*AAUW is a mission-based organization with so many opportunities to make a difference in our communities. We are so glad you are part of AAUW Chicago branch.*

*Best – Lori Switzer  
Chicago Branch Admin*

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

**Feb. 18** – Public Policy with Rep. Collins 10am via zoom

**March 8** – International Women's Day

**April 18** – Women in Policing – Evanston Police Chief Stewart via zoom Time TBD

**May 5-6**- AAUW-IL state convention in East Peoria Area

**June** - Chicago Branch annual meeting – TBD

### ***Thank you***

The Chicago branch was a partner and sponsor of the December 8<sup>th</sup> Latina Equal Pay Day event. We heard from four impressive Latina Women telling their stories regarding equal pay and what can be done to tighten the pay gap. The event also honored event founder and Chicago Branch member, Barbara Yong. Barbara is retiring and there is a scholarship set up in her name for young women in the future. Thank you to Barbara Yong, Lori Switzer, Ruth Holst, and Amy Laikin for attending the December 8th Latina Equal Pay Day Event. A recording of the event can be seen here

[https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=1231154567750584](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1231154567750584)

Thank you to Anne Foley and Ruth Holst for volunteering at the Chicago Women Take Action Mayoral Forum. Thank you to Jackie Kirley, Paula Purdue and Lori Switzer for being part of the steering committee for the event with the other 50 sponsor groups. The event was a huge success. If you missed it, watch a recording on CANTV -

<https://www.facebook.com/cantvchicago/videos/639322034663978>

### ***Looking Ahead –***

***Save the Date: Sat.*** April 18<sup>th</sup> via zoom- Evanston Police Chief Schenita Stewart via Zoom Chief Stewart will talk about her priorities and goals; getting guns off the street and out of the schools; recruiting, hiring and training for the desired staffing level; and what is like to be a woman in the police department. Please help spread the word.

### **No Dinner Dinner 2022**

Thank you to everyone who donated via check or online to the Fall 2022 No Dinner Dinner. We had a lot of support from all our branch members. I am still waiting for totals from Nationals, but the tentative total is \$1490-. Thank you to Helen Elkiss, Jeane Lindeke, Ruth Holst, Jackie Kirley, Donna Zimmerman, Mary Ann Johnson, Paula Purdue, Anita Moore, for their donations.

### **Branch Steering Committee Meeting – February 13**

We will meet on February 13 at 6:30pm via zoom. All are welcome to attend. We will be planning the upcoming Spring programs and our June Annual meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84802236266?pwd=dWtPc00vWWs1QklzOEVOVmNkQUxRdz09>

Meeting ID: 848 0223 6266 Passcode: 328269

### ***AAUW-IL Public Policy Recap – January 2023***

*We have a great report from the Lame Duck Session this year. The Lame Duck Session constitutes the days of session after Veto Override Session and before the new 2023 Legislative Session.*

*AAUW discovered that leaders of the Insurance for Family Leave and Medical Leave had made a deal to support Rep. Jehan Gordon's bill HB 208 which requires 40 hours (5 days) of paid leave for any reason. This bill actually passed and the Gov is going to sign. This is a wonderful first step to getting to a broader bill that AAUW has been supporting. So often legislation is passed in little steps to get to the broader plan. AAUW supported this bill with the other leaders of Insurance for Family and Medical Leave and we have a grand first step to our final goal.*

*H.B. 208 prohibits double-dipping of paid sick leave ordinances and state paid leave. The bill requires the employee to be paid a wage equal to their highest hourly wage and requires tipped employees to be paid the maximum minimum wage in their jurisdiction. It allows the use of paid leave after 90 days of employment. This bill also allows companies to request advance notice if paid leave covers more than 2 consecutive workdays.*

*Additionally, HB 4664 passed both houses and the Gov will sign. The bill protects patients, doctors and parents who come to Illinois for health care. This moves Illinois to the forefront for reproductive and gender affirming health care in our nation!.*

*HB 5471 is the Protect Ill. Communities Act. This bill bans the sale and distribution of assault weapons. The Gov is also signing this bill.*

*Please check on your legislator's vote with Illinois General Legislative Assembly (ilga.gov). Thank them if they were correct and if they did not vote right . . . ask them why? Our connection with our legislators develops power for AAUW Illinois. Please do your part.*

Thanks for all you do for AAUW Public Policy!

Tracey Sherman-Falcon  
Paula Purdue  
Co-chairs of Public Policy

**Mayoral Forum Event Recap – Chicago Women Take Action Co-Sponsor**

A sold-out audience filled the auditorium of the Chicago Temple on Saturday, January 14th to hear responses from key mayoral candidates to questions developed by the Chicago Women Take Action Alliance, of which AAUW is a member. Although Kam Buckner was not able to be present, the other eight candidates were there, including Jesus “Chuy” Garcia, Ja’Mal Green, Brandon Johnson, Sophia King, Lori Lightfoot, Roderick Sawyer, Paul Vallas and Willie Wilson.

It was a great opportunity to hear opinions and ideas about how to improve community life for Chicagoans, particularly women and children. Carol Marin and Cheryl Corley moderated the rapid-fire questioning session which touched on health, education, work-life, and public safety issues like Chicago Public School funding, reproductive health, crime reduction, domestic violence, homelessness, and low representation of women in construction and other trade occupations.

For us personally, it was a great introduction to candidates we were not familiar with and a nice refresher about some actions that have taken place during the Lightfoot administration.  
Ruth Holst and Anne Foley

AUW Chicago, Inc. Branch  
Quarterly Budget Report (July 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)  
Ruth Holst, Treasurer

	<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	<b>2022-2023 Actual</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Dues	990	1055
Donations for Program Expenses	100	
Member Donations	200	1
Transfer from Investment Acct.	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>2,056</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Insurance	200	200

IL Incorporation fee	20	0
Printing, Supplies, Postage	100	77
Membership Recruitment	75	0
Program Expenses	300	200
Program Planning Meetings	150	0
Annual Meeting Expenses	100	0
Public Policy Expenses	75	0
Contributions to AAUW National	1,000	0
Communications Software	350	0
Convention Travel Expense	200	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,220</b>	<b>477</b>

Chicago Branch Checking Account Balance - December 31, 2022: \$2,903.14

(Includes \$237.06 encumbered to Next Steps Collaborative)

Chicago Branch Investment Account Balance (Marston) - December 31, 2022: \$11,693.09

**Next Steps Collaborative Budget**

Balance on June 30, 2022:	\$450
Donations from Five Sponsors:	+ \$500
Expenses (Speakers \$300; Grace Place \$300; Printing \$112.94)	- \$712.94
Balance on December 31, 2022:	\$237.06

***Daytime Book Club next meeting – Wed. January 18th***

Do you like to read? If so, join us for daytime book club on January 18 via zoom. We will be meeting at 1:00pm. We will discuss ***The Maidens by Alex Michaelides***  
Here is the Zoom link for January's Book Club meeting. No need to register in advance.

Time: Jan 18, 2023 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527849492?pwd=Y3NyY1g1QUFPa2VadWJBjNabFBhQT09>

**Upcoming Books 2023**

Feb. 15 - *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng- leader Helen Elkiss  
 March 15 - *Dollars for Life: The Anti-Abortion Movement* by Mary Ziegler- leader Anne Foley  
 April 19 - *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner- leader Lori Switzer  
 May 17 - *The Girl in His Shadow* by Audrey Blake- leader Donna Zimmerman  
 June 21 - *The Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Gunty- leader Barbara Harris

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](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)

***Membership Update***

We have **52** paid members as of Jan 1, 2023. Thank you to everyone who has renewed this year. Thank you to Megan Moser for all of her work as membership vp.

***Welcome New Member***

Qiuyan Wu is a graduate student at UIC. [qw41@uic.edu](mailto:qw41@uic.edu) We look forward to meeting you and having you as a part of the branch.

**2023 AAUW-IL, 98th State Convention Friday - Saturday, May 5 - 6, 2023  
Embassy Suites by Hilton East Peoria Riverfront Hotel, Peoria, IL**

Following on the heels of our very successful face to face AAUW-IL convention in 2022, plan to join AAUW friends and colleagues from around the state at the 2023 AAUW-IL Convention in Peoria. SAVE THE DATE! Please mark your calendars and watch for details in Connection, LINK, and the state website.

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

Is there something you want to see in the newsletter? It is your newsletter. Articles for the March Chicago Edition newsletter are due February 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.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 133<sup>rd</sup> year!!*