**AAUW Chicago, Inc. Branch 2022-2023 Year Recap**

The board members met in person (June 29) and virtually (July 20) in 2022 to plan programs for the coming year. Our programs continue to promote the AAUW mission and values. We were still engaging members both virtually and in person as there are benefits to both formats. We can attract speakers more easily with the virtual format. Thank you to Helen Elkiss for hosting the planning meeting in June 2022 at her home.

**2022 Programs**

**September 17** - Outing to Rockford Women’s Suffrage Sculpture Plaza. Member Paula Purdue organized the outing to Rockford with Faye Marcus and members of the Rockford branch to the Women’s Suffrage Sculpture Plaza. Our members and guests enjoyed a day trip to Rockford and they also visited the Anderson Japanese Garden.

**September 22** - ERA Postcards for Nevada at the Chase cafeteria in the Loop. Member AJ Conroy organized this event to promote the passage of the ERA. It was hosted by AAUW-Chicago, LWV-Chicago, Chicago NOW and ERA Illinois,

**September 24** - AAUW-IL state fall conference via zoom. The Conference started with a welcome from state president Donna Jean Simon. Next was a Public Policy Update: "2022 Midterm Elections" presented by Tracey Sherman-Falcon and Paula Purdue, AAUW IL Public Policy Directors. The last session was a mini workshop: "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence" presented by the 1948 Project Team. As leaders of AAUW, we need to understand the fundamentals of A.I. concepts to help influence the direction of this new technology. The conference ended with breakout sessions lead by AAUW-IL board members.

**October 15** - Media Matters: Chicago Women Journalists Working in Non-Traditional Media - Held at Grace Place, in the South Loop. The branch organized a panel discussion with representatives from a variety of new media organizations. Panel moderator was Maudlyne Ihejirika from the Chicago Sun Times with panelists Shia Kapos from Politico, Monica Eng from Axios Chicago, and Samantha Smylie from Chalkbeat Chicago. The event was co-sponsored by Working Women’s History Project, Ida’s Legacy, League of Women Voters of Chicago, Vivian G. Harsh Society, and American Association of University Women Chicago branch. Thank you to Jackie Kirley, Helen Elkiss, Amy Laiken, and Ruth Holst for organizing, inviting the speakers, and planning the event.

**November 12**- Annual Fellows and Grantees program via zoom in partnership with the Jane Addams Online Branch. This year’s presenters were:

* Xiao (Angel) Bohannon, recipient of an American Fellowship for graduate study at Northwestern University to complete her PhD. Her project is “Attending to Leadership Attention: School Leadership during COVID.”
* Monica Reyes, American Fellowship recipient, to study writing, rhetoric and discourse at DePaul University. Her project is “Shelter Rhetorics: Understanding Narrative Pathways and Assemblages of the U.S. Asylum Process.”
* Chinyere Oteh, used her Career Development Grant to pursue an M.L.S. degree at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. She is interested in providing library access to information, preservation and resources for underserved populations

Thanks to Ruth Holst and Kate Skegg of the Jane Addams branch for organizing and hosting the zoom webinar and for moderating the discussion.

**December 8 -** Equal Pay Day Rally – EMPOWERMENT, PROGRESS, AND DETERMINATION:
ADVOCATING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY. Held in solidarity with #LatinaEqualPayDay, the last Equal Pay Day of the year, this event was also streamed on FB Live and presented by the Equal Pay Day Chicago Coalition. Barbara Yong was honored for her years of service with a scholarship in her name to support women in the future. The Chicago branch is part of the Equal Pay Day Chicago Coalition. Thank you to branch member and organizer Barbara Yong for her leadership and organization of the event over the past 15 years. Ruth Holst, Amy Laiken and Lori Switzer attended the event on behalf of AAUW Chicago Branch.

**2023 Programs**

**January 14** - Chicago Mayoral Forum – Chicago Women Take Action (CWTA): co-sponsored by AAUW and held at the Chicago Temple. The forum included all the Chicago Mayor candidates and focused on Women’s issues. This sold-out event was organized by the CWTA coalition. Branch members Jackie Kirley, Paula Purdue, and Lori Switzer were on the Steering committee with 50 other coalition organizations and branch members Ruth Holst and Anne Foley volunteered the day of the event. Thank you, ladies, for your time and leadership.

**February 18 - “**Let’s Talk Illinois Public Policy with Rep. Lakesia Collins” was a virtual event with Illinois House Representative Lakesia Collins. AAUW-IL Public Policy Chair and branch member Paula Purdue hosted the online event while taking questions from attendees. Thank you to Paula for organizing the event. Thank you to Megan Moser for hosting the zoom presentation.

**March 11** - Chicago Women Take Action (CWTA) Run-Off Mayoral Forum at the Chicago Temple. This sold-out event was co-sponsored by the Chicago Branch and shown live on CAN-TV. Thank you to Branch member Ruth Holst for volunteering on the day of the event. The Chicago branch will continue to be a member of the CWTA coalition as the new mayor is sworn in.

**March 25** - 15th Annual SWAN Day – *Hilma* movie screening at the Gene Siskel Center. Branch members and guests attended the movie screening in honor of the 15th Annual SWAN Day. (Support Women Artists Now). Thank you to Jan Lisa Huttner for organizing the event from Brooklyn. Also thank you to Branch member Dorthea Juul for leading the event in Chicago.

**April 22**- Women in Law Enforcement with Evanston Police Chief Schenita Stewart was held via zoom. Thank you to Barbara Harris for inviting Chief Stewart and leading the discussion about her personal experiences as a woman in a predominantly-male profession. Also thank you to Megan Moser for hosting the zoom event.

**May 5-6**- 2023 AAUW-IL, 98th State Convention: “*Everyone’s A Leader for Equity.”*

The convention was held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton East Peoria Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center. The Chicago Branch was well represented by State Board members Ruth Holst and Paula Purdue as well as Branch member Charlaine Reynolds. Branch member Jenni Purdue, our AAUW-IL lobbyist, attended via zoom with an Illinois Public Policy update. AAUW CEO, Gloria Blackwell, gave the keynote address, outlining highlights of AAUW’s activities this past year. The other speakers were local to either Peoria or the State of Illinois. Every presenter did an outstanding job and demonstrated why they are excellent examples of what leadership looks like.

**June 10** - Annual Meeting Reza’s Andersonville Restaurant. We will look forward to meeting in person and celebrating Branch activities during the past year. Thank you to Ruth Holst, Eleida Gomez, Lori Switzer, and Megan Moser for organizing and planning this meeting. Kudos to our **2023 50-Year members:** Judith Smith and Ruth Sweetser.

**Communication/Website/Newsletter** – Lori Switzer, editor

Our branch has excellent communication through our continually updated webpage, which is connected to the AAUW-IL website. Make sure you check the website often to see what is new with the branch and AAUW. [http://chicago-il.aauw.net](http://chicago-il.aauw.net/)

Our newsletter is sent to 99% of our members electronically each month.  The current and past newsletters are also available on our website.  We use Constant Contact for most of our communication so make sure you are signed up or contact chicagoaauw@hotmail.com to be added to the distribution list.

The Chicago branch has a continually updated Facebook page.   We have 429 fans (Increase of 10 fans from last year). Become a fan of the “Chicago Branch of AAUW” on Facebook.  <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chicago-Branch-of-AAUW>

There is also a branch Instagram page.  This page is gaining followers and has 83 followers (increase of 26 followers from last year) and 216 posts. Check it out – AAUWCHICAGO  <https://www.instagram.com/aauwchicago/>

**Membership –** VP of Membership, Megan Moser

We have ended the year with **52** paid members, down from 55last year. The branch had 4 new members join this year. Megan sent out interest emails to women attending AAUW events. As of June 1, information was taken from AAUW national Branch Member Roster:

25 members have renewed for the 2023-2024 year. We have 27 members still to renew.

Thank you to Megan Moser for serving as the branch membership VP for the past year. Megan will contact members who have not renewed by June 30.

**Chicago Branch Treasurer’s Report** – Ruth Holst

Chicago Branch Budget (July 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | **2022-2023 Budget**  | **2022-2023 Actual** |
| **Revenue** |   |   |
|  Dues | 990 | 1,533\* |
|  Donations for Program Expenses | 100 | 160 |
|  Member Donations  | 200 | 2 |
|  Transfer from Investment Acct. | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| **Total Revenue** | 2,290 | 2,695 |
|  \*includes dues for 2023-2024  |   |   |
| **Expenses** |   |   |
|  Insurance  | 200 | 200 |
|  IL Incorporation fee | 20 | 52 |
|  Printing, Supplies, Postage | 100 | 77 |
|  Membership Recruitment | 75 |  0 |
|  Program Expenses | 300 | 250 |
|  Program Planning Meetings | 150 | 0 |
|  Annual Meeting Expenses | 100 | 0 |
|  Public Policy Expenses | 75 | 0 |
|  Contributions to AAUW National | 1,000 | 500 |
|  Communications Software | 350 | 331 |
|  Convention Travel Expense | 200 | 0 |
|  Miscellaneous | 0 | 0 |
| **Total Expenses** | 2,220 | 1,410 |
|   |   |   |

Chicago Branch Checking Account Balance - May 31, 2023: $2,526.60

Chicago Branch Investment Account Balance (Marston) - May 31, 2023: $12,265.39

**AAUW Funds Report**

The Chicago, Inc. branch raised and donated **$3406- total** for all defined AAUW Funds in 2022. This includes AAUW’s Greatest Needs Fund, Education and Training Fund, Economic Security Fund, and Leadership Fund.

Chicago, Inc. Branch held its sixteenth “non-event” fundraiser to gather donations from Branch members for AAUW’s Greatest Needs Campaign.  In October/November/December 2022, we raised **$2221,** which is down from the $2420raised the year before.

**Daytime Book Club –** Lori Switzer and Ruth Holst - Chairs

The Daytime Book Club met via zoom all year. This accommodated attendees as well as included newer members and members from other AAUW-IL branches. All are welcome to attend.  The group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 1:00pm. The group will continue to meet on zoom.

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

**Sept 21**– ***The Swimmers: A Novel***by Julie Otsuka

**Oct 19** – ***Clark and Division*** by Naomi Hirahara

**Nov 16 – *Black Cake*** by Charmaine Wilkerson

**Dec 21** – No book discussion – we picked books for the upcoming year

**Jan 18**– ***The Maidens*** by Alex Michaelides
**Feb 15** – no meeting

**March 15** – ***Dollars for Life*** by Mary Ziegler
**April 19** – ***The Lost Apothecary*** by Sarah Penner
**May 17** – ***The Girl in His Shadow*** by Audrey Blake
**June 21**– ***The Rabbit Hutch*** by Tess Gunty

**July 19-** ***Our Missing Hearts*** by Celeste Ng

**Recognition of Branch Leaders**

Thank you to all the Chicago, Inc. branch members that have helped throughout the year. A giant thank you goes to Lori Switzer who agreed to act as our “Admin” during this first year of using a Steering Committee model of managing the Chicago Branch. Lori also edits our Chicago Edition newsletter and serves as our website/social media chair. Thank you to Helen Elkiss, Barbara Harris, Paula Purdue, Jackie Kirley, Anne Foley, Margaret O’Hara, Eleida Gomez, Ruth Holst, Megan Moser, Donna Zimmerman, Anita Moore, and all the members who helped plan and organize our programs for the year. Thank you to Ruth Holst and Megan Moser for hosting the Zoom programs. Also thank you to all our members for being an active part of our branch through virtual attendance and membership, especially as we try to meet the needs and comfort of our members.

**Program Planning meetings for 2023-2024 year**

Our first program planning meeting will be over zoom on Thursday, June 22 6:30pm via zoom RSVP to the zoom link to attend. Please bring ideas for topics, speakers, and meeting locations.

**https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErcOCrqTwpHNI5rO0F6s0rO1k4Cg6DHh8h**

The second program planning meeting is TBD.

**2022-2023 Board/Steering Committee List**

Administrator - Lori Switzer

Treasurer– 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)

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