

The Chicago Edition



March 2024

Volume 100, Edition 4



AAUW-IL Public Policy: Protecting Public Education & Libraries

Join us on March 14th at 7:00pm via zoom

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMod-usrjouE9IGKvjvVvEygtDpz1p_67aO

In September of 2022, AAUW-IL was part of organizing and participating in a coalition to protect public education and libraries by defeating Mom's for Liberty candidates. Moms for Liberty, an organization that had \$20+ million to elect school and library candidates that opposed LGBTQ+ and racial inclusive school curriculum and had advocated for book bans.

Our coalition and the work of active AAUW branch members proved to be very successful in many of the school and library board 2023 elections. However, the threat to public education is still present. Learn what the coalition accomplished and understand what needs to be done to prepare for future races. We hope you do not miss this program to hear from our amazing speakers and the work they are doing to protect Public Education. Our speakers and key players in our coalition:

- Rick Jascucla, Chairman of Jascucla Terman Strategic Communications
<https://www.jtpr.com/rick-jascucla>
- Holly Bartecki, Executive VP at Jascucla Terman Strategic Communications
<https://www.jtpr.com/holly-bartecki>

Sponsored by Chicago Inc. branch in partnership with the Jane Addams Online branch of AAUW. A big thank you to the Jane Addams Online Branch for partnering with us for this important program.

President's Message

Is Spring really here? After such a mild winter, I saw many green sprouts and flowers starting to emerge on my walk today. AAUW has been busy regardless of the weather.

Thank you to our members who have been working behind the scenes. We have had incredible speakers and mission-based programs this year. I so appreciate their connections and willingness to invite speakers to share their work with Chicago branch. We have been exposed to so many topics that I did not know much about. I really hope you are taking the time to tune in. Also, if you missed any of the programs, they have been recorded and are available on the Jane Addams website.

We are looking for members to join the steering committee. Anyone is welcome to join in on our monthly meetings on the Second Monday of each month. The link is in the newsletter. I so appreciate the ladies that help to discuss what is going on with AAUW nationally, at the state level and specifically with our branch. Also, we are looking for a treasurer for the 2024-26 term. Our financials are in great shape and very organized, please let me know if you would be able to help out the branch. Everything is online and very easy to manage.

Do you have anything that should be in our branch archives? Ruth Holst, Megan Moser and I are collecting materials for the archives. If you were a past officer and have materials or have anything you think should be included, please let me know. Thanks.

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

March 8	International Women's Day
March 12	Equal Pay Day
March 14	Public Policy Program
April 19-20	AAUW-IL state convention, Elgin
April 15	Membership renewal starts
June	Chicago branch Annual meeting date and time TBD
June	Planning meeting for 2024-25 program year – time TBD

Thank you

Thank you to Paula Purdue and Tracey Sherman-Falcon for planning and inviting Sarah from Women Employed for the January program. Sarah shared great information on what is happening in Springfield on the Paid Family Leave Act.

Thank you for Loretta Pearson for planning and organizing the February program with Elisa Munz on Human Trafficking. It is a difficult topic, but Elisa was honest and gave us a lot of information on how to recognize it and what we can do to help.

Also, a big thank you to the Jane Addams online branch for hosting these webinars with their zoom support. We would not be able to do it without you.

Looking Ahead

The Steering Committee is planning a museum outing for April. Details will be coming soon. Hope you can attend.

Open Membership

There will be another vote in Spring 2024 to pass a bylaws amendment to Open AAUW Membership, in other words, to drop the requirement that members must have an associate or equivalent degree. This April, we will have the opportunity to practice the inclusion that we value by voting to welcome any person who is passionate about equity for women into AAUW, whether they have a degree or not. AAUW National is proposing a bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. We encourage you to practice the inclusion our founding members worked for and vote “yes”- watch for your ballot in April.

AAUW 5 Star Program New Guidelines

AAUW National has released the guidelines for the new 5 Star program for 2024. The branch will work on branch recognition stars as needed. See the link for more details from national. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

Supporting NCCWSL in 2024 “Dare to Be...”

We hope you’re excited and spreading the word about this year’s National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) which will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park, May 30 through June 1, 2024. We are so proud of the work branches put in each year to collaborate with local campuses to facilitate student attendance alongside contributing to national scholarship fundraising. As registrations for this year’s event are open, we rely on support from our Greatest Needs and NCCWSL Scholarship Funds to support aspiring attendees.

Branch Steering Committee Meeting – March 11

We will meet on Monday, March 11 at 6:30pm via zoom. All are welcome to attend. We are looking for more members to join our steering committee. You can be as involved as your schedule allows. Please sign in to the next meeting or email Lori Switzer with any questions at chicagoaauw@hotmail.com

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84111918464?pwd=dW9CbXdXNWVlWVdzNWo5Zy9Ub1grUT09>

Daytime Book Club next meeting – Wed. March 20

Do you like to read? If so, join us for daytime book club on **Wed. March 20** via zoom. We will be meeting at 1:00pm. We will discuss ***The Indigo Girl*** by Natasha Boyd. Here is the Zoom link for the March 20 Book Club meeting. No need to register in advance.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89931272607?pwd=ZFJMNzYyNXJRR3NBU0FPeFFjUjI4QT09>

Upcoming Books 2024

April 17- The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn

May 15- The Little Old Lady Who Broke all the Rules by Catherina Ingleman-Sundberg

June 19 - Tom Lake by Anne Patchet

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, please contact our book club chair, Lori Switzer chicagoaauw@hotmail.com



Equal Pay Chicago Pay Equity Series: Making Salary Transparency Work

Salary transparency becomes the law in Illinois on January 1, 2025, but businesses across the city and the country are not waiting to reap the benefits of this evidence-based pay equity practice. Join the Equal Pay Chicago Coalition for a virtual panel focused on how employers can make salary transparency work, including practical tips and inspiration in fostering transparency and pay equity in their organizations. We will showcase employers who already have instituted salary transparency practices, and who can offer lessons learned as well as the benefits and how to leverage them in attracting top talent, and importantly, helping to strengthen women's financial wellbeing and close gender and racial wage gaps.

**Tuesday, March 12, 2024 (Equal Pay Day)
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. CT**

Panelists:

Katrina Johnson Jones, Director, Human Resources, Compensation - Acquisition and Divestitures, BMO Financial Group

First Deputy Chief of Staff, Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, City of Chicago

Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, State of Illinois

Moderator: Sharmili Majmudar, Executive Vice President of Policy, Programs, and Research, Women Employed
Steering Committee Member, Equal Pay Chicago Coalition

***Additional Panelists To Be Announced**

Register today: equalpaychicago.org/events

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AAUW-IL Legislative Update

Our lobbyist has been reading through thousands of bills to send hundreds of bills to Tracey and me to consider for AAUW's involvement in 2024. As in the last several years, there are many bills to reduce access to abortion health care. Many Illinois legislators are supportive of women's health care; however, we will follow these bills and oppose them in committee. There are also bills that reinforce women's health care and those who provide the services.

Last year, we worked very hard and appreciate all your help to end the Invest in Kids Scholarship Program. Our legislators are divided on this issue, and it was difficult to defeat. This session there are several bills to begin this program again. As you remember, this takes public money to be used in private schools. We must defeat these bills to revive Invest in Kids.

There are several bills that require Equal Pay Transparency and/or require corporations to share the makeup of their boards by race, gender, ethnicity and veteran status. There are several bills that eliminate the death penalty in Illinois. Tracey and I have determined that these bills are not part of the AAUW focus. Because this is an election year, complicated legislation will probably not pass. This includes our Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Conversations have been going on to determine what we can give up and still have a good bill that we can pass, in the next session. We need you to ask your legislators to co-sponsor the bill.

Tentatively, we are looking at Wednesday May 8, 2024, for a lobby day. Most likely partnering with Planned Parenthood. We will let you know when we have more definitive plans. Thanks for all you do!

Paula Purdue, Public Policy Co-Chair, AAUW-IL



2024 AAUW-IL, 99th State Convention Friday – Saturday, April 19-20

Registration is now open! Early Bird Registration must be submitted or postmarked by March 18th. Final registration must be submitted or postmarked by April 8th.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-ilinois-state-convention-celebrating-100-years-of-empowering-women-tickets-805851131427?aff=oddtcreator>

Use a credit card and register online, or download the paper registration form and mail a check to Sue Stauffer.

Join us in Celebrating 100 Years of Empowering Women at the AAUW-IL, INC. 99th State Convention, April 19-20 in Elgin, IL. AAUW-IL was established in 1924 and conventions began the following year. For 100 years AAUW-IL has been working to help women by promoting education for all, pressing for equity in the workplace, and pushing for equality in pay. For years to come, AAUW-IL will be supporting the AAUW mission of advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy.

AAUW-IL President Donna Jean Simon will kick off the Convention on the evening of April 19th with the President's 100 Year Celebration Reception. As we gather at 5:00 PM at ECC with light appetizers we will enjoy seeing old friends, making new acquaintances, and reminiscing on our past 100 years. Dinner and a program will round out our evening. Take some time at the convention to visit the tables set up in the ECC Business Center vestibule where the Branch Displays are showcased. If you are staying at the Holiday Inn in Elgin, you can jump aboard the hotel shuttle to transport you to and from the Friday evening events.

On the morning of Saturday April 20th, we will start with a buffet breakfast from 7:30 to 9 in room E121. At 9:00 we will kick off our programming with a welcome from our AAUW-IL President Donna Jean Simon. Speakers and members will spend the day on our continued focus on the Biennial Action Priorities. In addition, Jenni Purdue, our lobbyist in Springfield, will provide legislative updates. We will have the annual business meeting, affinity group breakouts, and of course, celebrate our 100 years of AAUW-IL accomplishments as we plan together to advance the AAUW mission in the future.

Bring your friends and join us at the 2024 AAUW-IL Convention in Elgin. Watch for additional program and agenda updates on the AAUW-IL website.

Room reservations at Holiday Inn, \$109 + Tax. Or you may call: 1-855-797-6733 and use the code AUW (this is correct, 3-digit code).

Reach out to Becky Glimco or Peg Gallagher AAUW-IL Program with questions.

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 or 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 134th year!!