



## **Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in Illinois**

**Saturday, January 10, 2026**

**11:00am via zoom**

Join us for a program on the history of the SLOW passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in Illinois.

We will meet via zoom on January 10, 2026. Chicago Branch member and Illinois lobbyist Paula Purdue, who was involved in every vote from 1976 to 2018, will share the exciting history of the ERA in Illinois until it was passed in 2018.

The ERA history involves a Mr. Wonderful Contest, Phyllis and her bakers, murder, prison and an unfaithful legislator.

Register to receive the zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/QabyB2UjT2G6GEH22OcQVQ>

### **President's Message**

*Happy Thanksgiving! I want you to know I am thankful for all Chicago branch AAUW members. Our branch would not be as strong and active without all of you. There is such history for a branch that is over 135 years old. I hope you can enjoy the holidays with your family and friends.*

*Thank you to Helen Elkiss and Jackie Kirley for planning and organizing the November AAUW Fellows and Grantees program via zoom. We had two fellows join us to discuss their research*

*and doctoral studies. It was attended by Chicago branch members as well as members from around the state.*

*There is no program in December, but we will start off 2026 with a program on the history of the passage of the ERA in Illinois. Then in mid-late February we are partnering with Chicago Women Take Action and other like-minded organization for a Senate Forum for the individuals running of the open Senate position left by Dick Durbin.*

*We have an open position on our board. Charlaine Reynolds is stepping down from her position as Membership Chair. I would like to thank Charlaine for her help over the past year and a half welcoming new members and continuing to maintain our branch membership. Please let me know if you are interested in helping and welcoming new and potential members.*

*Thank you to the members who have donated our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual No Dinner Dinner. The money donated goes to National AAUW for the greatest need fund. Donations can be mailed to me, or you can submit to national via the [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) website. It is appreciated!*

*Best – Lori Switzer*

*Chicago Branch Admin*

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

|                  |                                                         |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| December 10      | Jane Addams Day in Illinois                             |
| January 10, 2026 | ERA program via zoom                                    |
| February         | Senate Forum location: Operation Push Date and Time TBD |
| March 28         | Panel – Sexual Trauma with WWHP at Hull House 10:30am   |
| April 24-25      | AAUW-IL State Convention Rockford, Illinois             |

### ***Thank you***

Thank you to Helen Elkiss and Jackie Kirley for planning and organizing the November 10<sup>th</sup> AAUW Fellows and Grantee Zoom program. Also thank you to Kate Skagg and Elaine Fisher from the Jane Addams Branch for working with us and hosting the zoom webinar. The program was recorded and will be available on You Tube in the coming weeks.

### ***No Kings Rally – Megan Moser***

The Pre-Rally to the No Kings Protest was held in Oz Park in Lincoln Park at 10am on October 18th. AAUW members Megan Moser, Paula Purdue and friends attended the event. It was organized and sponsored by the Mothers for Democracy organization; a grass roots local organization. It was a family-friendly event with kids making their own signs, bubbles, and sidewalk chalk. Local and state politicians like Mike Quigley, the local alderman Tim Knudsen, Julianna Stratton and Alexei Giannoulous gave speeches and encourage everyone to keep up the fight. The pre-rally ended with a march around the park and some leaving to attend the Rally downtown. It was a great turnout. It was a fantastic experience! Lots of kids with the signs that they had made. Lots of excitement, lots of people are not happy with the current leadership of our country. Branch member Jackie Kirley went to the Grant Park Rally and helped register voters with the League of Women Voters.

### ***Illinois Public Policy Report – Paula Purdue***

The Illinois Veto Override Session is over. Primarily, the session was taken up with fights over budget cuts. After the cuts at the federal level last spring, legislators and reps were trying to

handle the Illinois budget as it has just become more complicated. AAUW-IL had no issues that were dealt with this session.

### ***Open Board Position***

We have an open position on the Branch board for a VP of Membership. The position will go until June 30, 2026. The membership chair is a voice on the board as well as welcoming new and potential members to the branch. Please contact Lori Switzer if you are interested in the position. [Chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:Chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)

### ***Time to renew your membership***

Membership renewal is still going on for 2025-26. Dues are \$106- . There was a \$2- increase in national dues, but no increase in state or branch dues. Please see the form at the end of this newsletter. You can renew online via our national website [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) or you can pay via Zelle to [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com). Any questions contact Megan Moser [meganmoser@hotmail.com](mailto:meganmoser@hotmail.com) or Charlaine Reynolds [charlaine.reynolds@gmail.com](mailto:charlaine.reynolds@gmail.com)

### ***New 2025-26 Branch Directory***

The branch directory has been updated for the coming year. Thank you to everyone for keeping their information updated and renewing your membership. Please let me know if you have any corrections. The directory is available on our branch website under the password protected page. The password is Illinois. You can also find your membership information on the AAUW national community hub. <https://chicago-il.aauw.net/>

### ***Treasurer Report – Megan Moser***

As of November 1, 2025

Checking account: \$2,798.92

Fidelity account: \$14,690.23

### ***Branch Steering Committee Meeting – January 12, 2026***

#### ***There will be no meeting in December***

We will meet on Monday, January 12 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. We meet the second Monday of each month.

The next meeting will be January 12. Please join the next meeting or email Lori [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)

Here is the zoom meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87287617695?pwd=ds2raDpbQHARbOX2Zblw2pSB1whYso.1>

### ***Daytime Book Club next meeting – Wed. December 17***

Do you like to read? If so, join us for the daytime book club on **Wed. December 17** via zoom at 1:00pm. We will be discussing ***The Book Club for Troublesome Women: A Novel by Marie Bostwick*** Here is the Zoom link for the Sept 17 Book Club meeting. No need to register in advance.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81351738193?pwd=0hnbNlky84FC4m9hbwYkbKYrRmbDag.1>

### **Upcoming Books:**

#### **2026**

**January 21** - *Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond* by Lilly Ledbetter

**February 18** - *Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Novel* by Shelby Van Pelt

**March 18** – *What is Government? The Untold Story of Public Service* by Michael Lewis

Feel free to attend online even if you don't have time to read and bring some suggestions for future books. Any questions, please contact our chair, Lori at [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)

### **18<sup>th</sup> Annual No Dinner Dinner Fundraiser**

An invitation was mailed out for the branch's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual No-Dinner Dinner. We are fundraising for AAUW National and the Greatest Need Fund. Please consider donating to AAUW national either by check mailed to Lori Switzer or online to <https://my.aauw.org/donation-product-detail>

All donations will be credited to the Chicago branch, and the donations will help the branch earn our advancement star in the National 5-star program. Donations are taken until December 2025.

Every donation counts and helps promote equity for women and girls.

Thank you everyone who has donated so far – we have raised over **\$1500– of our \$2000 goal.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM NATIONAL AAUW**

#### **New Webinars Now Available in AAUW's Webinar Library**

If you're looking for fresh ideas and inspiration for your branch, be sure to explore the latest recordings now available on [AAUW's Webinar page](#).

- **Working in Coalition: Building Power through Partnerships**

Strong alliances make lasting impact. In this session, AAUW members from across the country share how they build power with trusted partners and how your branch can do the same. You'll hear real examples and walk away with concrete first steps to strengthen your advocacy through coalition work.

- **Branches in Action: A Century of Advocacy, Fundraising & Impact**

This webinar traces the history of AAUW branches, how they began, how they've shaped AAUW over time, and how they continue to fuel our accomplishments through advocacy, fundraising, and a shared commitment to equity for women and girls in higher education.

### **AAUW Launches New Program: Level Up: Salary Negotiation Program**

AAUW is proud to announce the launch of Level Up: Salary Negotiation Program, an equity-centered initiative empowering women to achieve fair compensation and career advancement. Running from October 2025 through June 2026, the nine-month program will engage a cohort of 20 early- to mid-career women through AAUW's Work Smart salary negotiation training, Money Smart financial literacy training, other career development trainings, personalized coaching, and peer networking. Supported by a grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation, the program underscores AAUW's commitment to advancing gender and racial pay equity through measurable, community-driven impact.

### **We moved to a new mass email platform to better serve you!**

Is your contact information up to date with AAUW? Access your personal snapshot and update your contact information and preferences. Go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) Frequent users, click LOG IN as usual. Non-frequent users, click LOG IN, then below the blue log in button, click FORGOT PASSWORD. Enter your email address and click RESET YOUR PASSWORD to receive and confirm a new password to access your Personal Snapshot. Help? Email: [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) and enter LOG IN HELP in the subject line.