

News from the Northwest

May, 2018



**Newsletter of the Northwest Suburban Branch
American Association of University Women**

***AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy,
education, philanthropy, and research.***

It's Annual Meeting Time

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

6:00 p.m., Des Plaines Elks Club

495 Lee St., Des Plaines

Yes, it's that time again – time for our annual meeting. Once again we will meet at the Des Plaines Elks Club, have our dinner and then have the meeting. We will be able to order from the menu and we will ask to have separate checks, which makes the process much easier. Please note that we are departing from our customary Thursday meeting day. The reason for this is that the Elks Club has a Thursday night fundraising activity that involves frequent loudspeaker announcements. That's all right if you are a participant and a potential winner in the activity, but it is very disconcerting when you are trying to have a meeting, as we discovered last year. However, because the club is a good place to meet with lots of parking we decided that we could be flexible in the interest of having a better meeting.

We don't have a program, other than the opportunity for members to have a little more time to socialize, and that's something that we seldom have time to do. Come, have a leisurely dinner, talk with your AAUW friends, and then be a part of the deliberation at our meeting. Information on the items to be considered is found elsewhere in the newsletter; please be sure to read it. If you will be able to attend, it would be helpful if you would let Irene Jinks know so that we can let the club know how many places to set. Call her at 847-698-3113 or email her at wijinks@aol.com. However, if you find at the last minute that you are able to attend, please don't stay away because you have not reserved; we will find space for you!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy Spring, finally!

We are close to the end of our program year. It was a year filled with a variety of programming. We had a successful first "19th" outing to see Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" with women from AAUW across the Chicago area. Our collaborations with the League of Women Voters, Oakton College and the Des Plaines Public Library helped us amplify our message of equity for women and girls. Within the next few weeks we will know whether Illinois will pass the Equal Rights Amendment, which will be something to really celebrate.

Our branch is slowly growing its membership and narrowing its focus. Thanks to the board that has worked hard to come up with programming this year. We hope our programming and philanthropy will continue to attract new members to the group. We have already started on next year's programs.

(Continued on next page)

FROM OUR PRESIDENT (Continued)

One thing that we will need to do as a branch is come up with a fundraiser to better fund our efforts. Our Oakton Scholarship and gifts to AAUW National are coming from our dwindling savings. We also need funds to send our officers to State Convention (held in Lisle on April 27-28). The state meetings help keep our branch connected to the efforts of National AAUW and help us form relationships with neighboring branches. Your current president and others in the past have paid their own way, but this becomes difficult when much travel is involved, especially when a national convention is held.

A few of us on the board have discussed a used book sale for children's books. We will need a few more heads to join the conversation of how to get this idea off the ground for a test run. If you are interested, please let me know.

Lastly, I want to mention that nationally AAUW is hoping to make changes that will help us achieve more on behalf of women and girls. I urge you to take the time to vote in the AAUW election being held now. Personally, I encourage you to vote yes on each issue. I think it is very important for the health of AAUW to remove membership restrictions. It is hindering our ability to do our work. (See AAUW IL President's letter.)

Cindy

(Editor's Note: Our president will not be able to attend our annual meeting. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Blackburn College, her alma mater, in Carlinville, Illinois and she must be there for a board meeting. This is just another of the ways in which Cindy gives to her community.)

WOW! MARCH AND APRIL WERE BUSY MONTHS!

Our first March meeting, on March 10, brought us Alice Paul, in the person of Leslie Goddard, who really got us started on an eventful Women's History Month. Partnering with the Des Plaines Public Library has been a real boon for us, as it has made it possible for us to provide programs that we could never afford on our own and also to get the name and message of AAUW out to more members of the public. There was a good crowd present, and a few of our members were able to get together afterward for lunch and conversation.

Then, on March 28, again at the Des Plaines Public Library, we were able to show the wonderful documentary film *Equal Means Equal*. Several of our members, some of whom had not seen the film before, were able to attend, as well as quite a few from the community. Michelle Fadely, president of Illinois NOW, was most informative as she fielded questions about women's rights, the ERA, and women's lack of protection under the Constitution. Those of us who have been involved in women's organizations for a long time know about these things, but it is amazing how little the general public is aware of some of these legal issues. It was a really good gathering, and would probably have continued for quite a while longer had we not reached the library's closing time!

In April, a few of our members were able to attend the AAUW Scholars' Brunch at Lambs Farm. The women whom we support with our monetary awards are remarkable! AAUW really does support women through philanthropy! Just a few days before that luncheon, on April 10, Equal Pay Day, our branch co-sponsored the rally at Daley Plaza in Chicago, using funds given us as a grant from AAUW-IL. Then, on the last weekend, our president attended the AAUW-IL state convention which was held in Lisle. Elaine Fisher, a dual member of our branch and Naperville branch, was also in attendance.

AAUW DUES TO INCREASE

It has been ten years since national dues increased, and we know that costs have increased during that period, so a dues increase is now necessary. National dues will increase by \$10 for the 2018-2019 year, so our total dues for the year will be \$81.00. (Of national dues, \$56 will be tax deductible.) Currently, dues account for only 13% of the annual AAUW budget, so more revenue is clearly needed. AAUW-IL does not plan to raise its dues at this time and we will hold the line on local dues. Your treasurer will be happy to accept your dues at the annual meeting or by mail. Checks should be payable to Northwest Suburban AAUW; you may also pay online with a credit card by going to the AAUW website; you will need your membership number.

AAUW UPDATE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Cindy Grau writes:

The AAUW election has begun. You should all have received an email with details on how to vote. There is a link with explanations of each of the three items up for a vote on AAUW's webpage. You have until June 10 to vote. If you did not receive this email please let me know!

Opening up our membership is one of the issues we are voting on. Our state President and President-Elect have written a letter about this issue. I hope you will take the time to read this before voting. The highlighting is mine. We have a brand new Executive Director who is working on the monetary issues AAUW is facing. Our dues are going up to cover costs but it will not be enough. AAUW is continuing to seek outside funding for its many programs. Here is the letter:

Dear AAUW-IL member,

As AAUW-IL President and President Elect, we would like for AAUW Illinois members to vote on all the proposed bylaw changes. We want you to know our perspective on opening up AAUW membership to anyone who supports our mission and pays annual dues. The national AAUW board has recommended this change and below is the rationale for the change.

An individual who pays annual dues to AAUW and supports its mission shall be eligible to be an individual member with all rights and responsibilities of AAUW membership.

Over its long and storied history, AAUW's mission and membership requirements have evolved with our successes and with the times. Marion Talbot and the other founding members created the Association of Collegiate Alumnae to remove the roadblocks to getting an education since it was uncommon for women to have college degrees at the time. Today non-degreed women work in every industry and field. If Marion Talbot formed AAUW today, it would be hard to believe she would prevent these women from fighting for equity.

AAUW has always been dedicated to breaking down barriers that prevent women from achieving their goals, and it is important that AAUW recognize the power of welcoming anyone who supports our mission, as is common practice with mission-based nonprofits. AAUW cannot promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements.

In addition to aligning closely with our mission, eliminating the membership requirement will promote a more inclusive and diverse membership. According to the US Census, in 2016, the percentage of women aged 25-29 years who completed four years of college, varies by race:

- 46 percent of white women
- 25 percent of African American women
- 31 percent of Hispanic women.

While a college education is important, education comes in many forms, including career technical education and on-the-job training. By requiring a college degree, we are significantly limiting potential membership of those who might otherwise be strong partners and advocates of our mission.

Further, many members and stakeholders encourage AAUW to seek new funding from corporations, Foundations and other grant-making organizations, but the current restrictions for membership means AAUW doesn't meet basic inclusion language required for many of these funders. In other words, we are prospectively leaving important dollars for our future on the table.

Please carefully consider this rationale as you vote on this bylaw amendment.

Thank you,

Sallie Miller, AAUW-IL President

Jennifer Urish, AAUW-IL President Elect

Thank you for reading this far!

Cindy Grau

President

NW Suburban AAUW

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING:

These are things that we will be considering:

Bylaws Amendment:

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers (Current)

- a. The elected officers for the branch shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
- f. The following officers shall be elected in even years: president. The following officers shall be elected in odd years: vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 1. Officers (Proposed)

- a. The elected officers for the branch shall be president, vice president of programs, vice president of membership, secretary, and treasurer.
- f. The following officers shall be elected in even years: president, vice-president of membership. The following officers shall be elected in odd years: vice president of programs, secretary, and treasurer.

Budget:

AAUW – NORTHWEST SUBURBAN BRANCH PROPOSED BUDGET, 2018-2019

	<u>Operating Fund</u>
Balance, July 1, 2018 (Checking) (Est.)	\$1,750.00
Income:	
Dues (Branch) 23 at \$12.00	276.00
Social Event	100.00
Fundraising	100.00
Transfer from Savings	<u>524.00</u>
Total Income	\$2,750.00
Expenses:	
Program Costs	250.00
Contributions: AAUW	500.00
Oakton Scholarship	1,000.00
State Convention Delegate	100.00
Liability Insurance	200.00
Operating Costs	50.00
Other	<u>50.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 2,150.00
Projected Balance to Remain in Checking	<u>600.00</u>
	\$ 2,750.00

Nominations:

The following are nominated for 2018-2020:

President: Cindy Grau
VP, Membership: Lisa Crocco
Co-VP, Program: Fran Kampwirth
Secretary: Wendi Thourson

Nominating Committee: Ellen Yearwood
Sally Kleaveland

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!

We are pleased to add Kate Kerin to our membership. Kate lives at 328 S. Redfield Ct., Park Ridge. Her phone number is 847-318-7376, email is kerin1@mc.com. She is a graduate of National Louis University. We look forward to meeting Kate.