

# News from the Northwest

May, 2019



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

***Our Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls  
through research, education and advocacy.***

***Our Vision: Equity for all.***

## **Branch Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Des Plaines Elks Club**

**495 Lee St., D.P.**



Once again we are approaching the end of our fiscal year and so it is time for us to have our annual meeting. We will once again be meeting at the Des Plaines Elks Club, but this year we will gather on Wednesday evening instead of the usual Thursday, so that we can avoid the announcements of the Queen of Hearts drawing which come over the loudspeaker! Our dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m., and we urge you to get there a bit earlier as there is bingo on Wednesdays; although it will not disturb us as we meet, the parking lot fills quickly after 6:00.

During our meeting we will review our year and look to the coming program year. We will have an election of officers – this year the vice president for program, the secretary and treasurer will be elected; and will vote on a budget for the coming year. As many other branches do, this year we will honor a Woman of the Year, and our honoree is Holly Sorensen, Director of the Des Plaines Public Library.

Holly Sorensen was hired at the Des Plaines Library as Head of Adult Services in 1999 and served in that position until September, 2007, when she was promoted to Assistant Director. She became Executive Director in 2010 and will retire from the library at the end of June of this year. As the Executive Director, she led the \$2.5 million renovation of the building from 2015 to 2018, completing the project on time, within budget, and without raising the tax levy!

Our AAUW branch has benefited greatly from the Des Plaines Public Library. For several years the Library has partnered with us to present expensive speakers in a large enough venue for the community to attend – for example, Leslie Goddard who portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt in March. They have also made meeting rooms available to us as a branch and as an executive committee; our Work Smart seminar in April was held at the library with registration through the library's website.

We are pleased to be able to honor Holly Sorensen in this way and look forward to having her with us at our annual meeting dinner.

If you plan to attend the meeting, please let Irene Jinks know so that we will have an idea of how many places to set (but don't stay away if you have neglected to let her know). Contact Irene at [wijinks@aol.com](mailto:wijinks@aol.com) or 847-698-3113. we will order from the menu and receive individual checks.

## **WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING!**

The past couple of months have been busy ones, even though not all of our members have been involved. On March 28, our president represented us at the Equal Pay Day Rally in Chicago, and then on April 13 we had the Work Smart salary negotiations workshop at the Des Plaines Library. Nearly forty had registered for the workshop, but not everyone attended. Those who did participate, however, had a great learning experience. We are fortunate to have received a grant from AAUW-IL, Inc. to allow us to sponsor the workshop, and we appreciate the great hospitality of the Des Plaines Public Library which provided the facilities and refreshments for the meeting.



Here is our president, Cindy, with other AAUW friends at the Equal Pay Day Rally at Daley Plaza in Chicago. They were lucky this year to have a beautiful day!



Participants in the WorkSmart salary negotiations workshop spent an afternoon learning how to present themselves and reach a successful conclusion when negotiating for salaries and/or benefits. The presenters used materials prepared by AAUW for these workshops.

## **NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Nomination Committee, consisting of Elaine Fisher and Pili Richardson, submits the following slate of officers for election at the annual meeting:

Program Vice President: Fran Kampwirth

Secretary: Wendi Thourson

Treasurer: Megan Hildebrand McGaughey

Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting, with the permission of the nominee.

## **MEMBER NEWS**

Our branch was saddened by the death of Ann Evans on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Ann had been a member of AAUW for well over sixty years and had been very active in the branch before her health began to deteriorate. Ann will be missed.

We send our condolences to Megan Hildebrand McGaughey who lost her father earlier this month.

Our acting secretary, Wendi Thourson, will be having hip replacement early next month.

## **AAUW NEWS FROM WASHINGTON**

### **Paycheck Fairness Act Passes in House of Representatives**

On March 27, the House of Representatives voted 242-187 to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act with bipartisan support. Since the start of the 116th Congress, AAUW has been working to ensure swift passage of this critical pay equity legislation without any weakening amendments. AAUW staff worked with Congressional offices and sent several letters to the Hill, as well as organizing coalition letters with hundreds of signers. AAUW CEO Kim Churches published an op-ed on the importance of the bill. And AAUW also submitted a statement for the bill's hearing record in the House Education and Labor Committee. Additionally, AAUW advocates sent over 3,000 emails and made more than. AAUW 400 calls to House offices in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. By passing this important bill, members of the House of Representatives who supported the bill have demonstrated their commitment to the economic security of American women and their families. The bill now moves to the Senate, and AAUW urges senators to act now to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

### **All People Should Have Equal Rights**

America's civil rights laws should reflect that promise by protecting everyone. Yet despite significant progress, discrimination remains a persistent problem for LGBTQ Americans. That's why it's critical that Congress pass the Equality Act, which would amend existing federal civil rights laws to provide explicit protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in a number of key areas. The Equality Act would update our civil rights laws to provide important new protections against sex discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports the civil rights of all individuals. Our nation's civil rights laws must be updated to protect *all* of us — no one should experience unfair treatment because of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

**Take action today to urge your members of Congress to ensure protections against discrimination by supporting the Equality Act.**

## **IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Annual memberships expire on June 30 of each year, so it is now time to renew. There is no change in dues for this year, but the branch will be submitting dues electronically to national and state. Because we had trouble receiving local dues that were paid directly to AAUW by several members last year, we are asking that this year you pay your dues to the branch by check and then they will be submitted to national and state. The total amount is: \$59 for national (\$56.00 of this is deductible for tax purposes); \$10.00 for state; \$12.00 for local = \$81.00. If you are a paid national life member, the amount is \$22.00; honorary life members do not have to pay any dues, but contributions to the branch are appreciated. Your treasurer will be happy to accept your dues at the annual meeting or by mail. Checks should be payable to Northwest Suburban AAUW. Please send checks to Irene Jinks, 834 Carolyn Lane, Park Ridge IL 60068.