

News from the Northwest

March, 2020



Newsletter of the Northwest Suburban Branch

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

Our Vision: Equity for all.

IT'S ANOTHER BUSY MONTH - WILL YOU BE A PART OF THE ACTION?

Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Iron Jawed Angels

Des Plaines Library, 1501 Ellinwood, Des Plaines

Over the past few years, we have established a great working relationship with the Des Plaines Public Library to present programs that we would not be able to present on our own. Last month we were able to have Michelle Duster, the great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells, and this month we will once again partner with the library to show the film *Iron Jawed Angels*. While this is not a new film, it is a "must see" movie. Even if you've seen it before, you will be moved and disturbed by what you see. The struggle for suffrage was not easy and it's not over.

Join us at the library. If enough people are interested, we could once again get together for lunch afterwards.

Thursday, March 19, 2020

AAUW-IL Lobby Day in Springfield

Here is a real opportunity for you to be a part of the action. AAUW-IL is doing a Lobby Day trip to Springfield on March 19 to lobby for the Family Medical Leave Act, the Parental Notification Act, examining the requirements for Sex Education, and the status of the ERA and its legal challenges. Bus transportation will be provided for this trip, which will last all day. It will give you an opportunity to meet with your legislators to let them know how you feel about the legislation that affects women, children and families. For further information, contact Cindy Grau.

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Chicagoland Tech Savvy Conference

Once again Triton College in River Grove is sponsoring the conference and expects to host about 200 students and 100 parents. Volunteers are needed, both on the day of the conference and earlier to help prepare materials; for information and to volunteer, go to <http://www.triton.edu/> and click on [Volunteer Signup](#). Also, visit [TechSavvyWebsite](#) for the latest updates. This is a great opportunity to help by volunteering!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

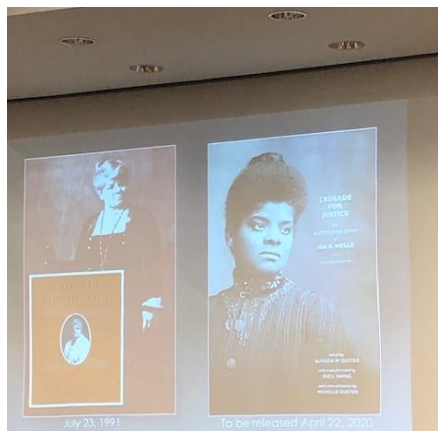
It was a great turnout on Saturday, February 22! Over 50 attendees of all ages got to hear about Ida B. Wells and how African American women had to wait until the Voting Rights Act was passed in order to effectively get the vote. Michelle Duster, Ida B. Wells' great-granddaughter, was a great advocate for learning more than the "fairy tale" story of the suffrage movement.

You can learn more at our next program on March 14 when we watch "Iron Jawed Angels," which busts apart any fairy tales of the movement. If you haven't seen it, it's a must-see movie.

The board will be meeting on Sunday March 29 at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Fran Stott Kampwirth to discuss organization of the branch and its future after my term as president is over. We need your input! Contact me or any one of the officers if you have suggestions on how we should proceed or, better yet, come to the board meeting and express your ideas about the direction of our branch.

Cindy Grau

(Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to our president, Cindy, who just had a knee replacement.)



A rapt audience listens as Michelle Duster speaks about the work of her great-grandmother, African American suffragist Ida B. Wells, at the Des Plaines Library on February 22.

... AND THERE'S MORE TO COME!

Saturday, April 18, Annual Fellows Lunch, Lambs Farm

This is a very special event where we can hear from AAUW scholars who are studying in the Chicago area. You will be so impressed by these special young women whom we, as AAUW members, support. See the attached flyer for information, and contact Cindy Grau if you would like to attend; we could carpool.

Wednesday, May 13, 6:00 p.m., Northwest Suburban Branch Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

Location of this meeting is yet to be determined; if you have suggestions, contact Cindy Grau.

Thursday-Saturday, June 18-20, AAUW Regional Convention, East Moline, Illinois

See the attached flyer for information about this special event being held in Illinois.

EQUAL PAY DAY IS MOVING!

The Equal Pay Day Rally which for many years has been observed in Chicago in April, will be observed instead on October 29, which is Latina Equal Pay Day – pointing out the vast difference in earnings among different ethnic groups. There will be more information coming but put this date on your calendar and if you are able to attend the rally plan to do so.

The ERA: where are we now?

By AJ Conroy, ERA Illinois

In January, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The resolution was promptly sent to the National Archivist for certification. This ministerial task is proscribed by federal statute and was the process followed by Nevada, Illinois, the archivist, and every state that ratified the “Madison Amendment” in the 90s. However, Alabama, South Dakota and Louisiana sued to prevent the archivist from doing his job. Upon the advice of the Department of Justice (i.e, the lawyers for the Executive Branch), the Archivist has not yet certified Virginia’s ratification.

In response, Illinois, Nevada and Virginia filed a separate lawsuit to compel the Archivist to certify Virginia's ratification and declare the Equal Rights Amendment as added to the US Constitution. Again, this is a clerical task given to the Archivist by a federal law. Meanwhile, a private lawsuit was filed by the group Equal Means Equal (filmmakers). The three lawsuits are in different federal courts. One or all of them is expected to go before the Supreme Court. More on that in a bit.

In another development, the House of Representatives voted on February 13 (Galentines Day!) to remove the Congressional ERA time limit. The resolution is now before the Senate as SJRes6.

What happens next?

There are several possibilities, but no one really knows. The best outcome would be for the Senate to vote this year to remove the time limit, and for the Supreme Court to then defer to Congress on the doctrine of “political question” and affirm that only Congress can author an Amendment. The ERA would then become part of the US Constitution. Another possibility is that the Supreme Court directs the Archivist to certify Virginia's ratification without the Senate taking action. The ERA would then become part of the US Constitution. A third possibility is that a Supreme Court decision dismisses the ERA and advocates must restart the ratification process.

Much of the future will be determined by the Supreme Court but there is one possibility ERA advocates can influence and that is pushing for a senate vote.

The plan for the Senate:

In Illinois, at the height of ratification efforts, we focused on legislators in contested races. That same strategy can work in the Senate. Pollsters have identified six states as having competitive Senate races. Working under the assumption that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and party leadership are focused on maintaining a senate majority, our task is to convince them that allowing a vote for the Equal Rights Amendment is critical to winning key Senate races. These key states are Arizona, Colorado, Maine, North Carolina, Georgia, Missouri, Kentucky and Iowa.

What you can do?

Reach out to family friends and peers in those states. Tell them about the Senate and why they could play a crucial role. Not only are they in a pivotal state, but they may be part of a pivotal demographic. Historically, middle-age and older women vote at a higher rate, and politicians know that well. Here are some things they can do: 1) call their Senator weekly, 2) attend candidate forums, 3) write a letter to the editor, and 4) host screening of Equal Means Equal. Details and more ideas are located at www.erallinois.org/resources

When to act?

We have a window between now and November. You can make a difference and together we can get this done. #ERAnow!



AAUW-IL District 5
Educational Opportunities Fund
14th Annual Lunch with Fellows



11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 18, 2020

at Lambs Farm

Rte. 176 & I-294/Illinois Tollway Libertyville, IL
60048

Honorees:

- **Faramalala Ravaorimanga, International Fellow, North Park Univ., Clinical Psychology**
- **Jennilee Wallace, Research Publication Grant, Rush University, Neuroimmunology**

MENU: Cup of Soup, Choice of Salad (Chicken Caesar/Chopped Chicken),
Rolls & Butter, Dessert, Coffee/Tea/Soda

COST: \$22...includes tax & tip

DEADLINE: Reservations must be received by **April 11**

Make your reservation by sending this form (below) with a check for \$22 - payable to *Deerfield Area AAUW* - to Kay Madden, 425 Village Green, #304, Lincolnshire, IL 60069, to arrive no later than Saturday, April 11.

Questions: Contact Kay at 847-955-1708 or kaymadden@outlook.com

Bring a guest!

Hope to see you at this outstanding annual event!

Full Name of Attendee:_____

AAUW Branch/Organization:_____

Menu Choice:_____



2020

Regional Convention

June 18-20, 2020

Hyatt House Hotel

East Moline, IL

Registration Opens Soon!

Confirmed plenary speakers—

- ♦ Kim Churches, Chief Executive Officer, AAUW;
- ♦ Kendra Davis, Senior Vice President Advancement & Partnerships, AAUW;
- ♦ Lisa Maatz, Former VP Government Relations, AAUW;
- ♦ Denise Lieberman, Director, Advancement Project's Power and Democracy Program;
- ♦ Dr. Angie Maxwell, Director of the Diane Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society, University of Arkansas;
- ♦ Michelle Duster, author and great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells.

Early Bird Registration (before May 15) \$175

Regular Registration (after May 15) \$225

Includes lunch on Thursday & Friday, dinner on Thursday

Optional Riverboat Cruise Dinner \$50.95

Friday evening aboard the Celebration Belle

Register at <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/>

Convention Hotel

Hyatt House

111 Bend Blvd, E. Moline, IL 61244

Register at

<https://aauw-il.aauw.net/>

Double or King rooms are \$149, tax included and include a full breakfast.

Interesting Programming:

- ♦ Economic Security Panel
- ♦ ERA Passage in Illinois
- ♦ Celebration of 19th Amendment
- ♦ WorkSmart--bring your own device for the online workshop
- ♦ Town Hall with Kendra Davis
- ♦ Branch Program Sharing--bring your best ideas and take some home!
- ♦ Breakout sessions on Cyber Security, Running for Office, Title IX, Diversity & Inclusion, and more!

Catch up with old friends and meet new friends from 13 states—Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin!