

News from the Northwest

October, 2021



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.

A Virtual Gathering!

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Our branch is small . . .
We're just a few,
But there's a lot
That we can do.
We all can speak,
And we can write.
By phone, email, or with a pen
We truly are able to show our might.
An activist you can become!
No march, or sign –
Just work from home!
So join us next week
As we gather on Zoom
And you'll get all the tips you seek
To be an activist!
Yes, we mean YOU!
The power of women
Will shine right through!

We realize that those members who do not have Internet connections cannot participate in Zoom sessions, but the rest of us can certainly share what we learn by using our voices and our notes to tell our friends what they can do to help the cause. We've been working for far too long on trying to make the Equal Rights Amendment a part of our law. Let's be sure that we do everything that we can to be sure that we are here to see it happen!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The lazy days of summer are ending, and fall is definitely in the air. Does this mean you are energized and ready to tackle a new project? Or get out and help register new voters? Or take on a leadership role in our AAUW branch? We are looking for two volunteers to serve as board secretary and public policy chair. Call or text me if you can help out or have questions about more details. Ph. 630 335-4917.



On September 1, the notorious RVG (Reliable Vote Getter) came to Park Ridge (organized by the LWV) to promote the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and encourage voter registration.

A nice crowd attended, including former Illinois Representative Lou Lang and Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, who signed their pledges to work to adopt the 28th amendment.

Our September 21st program, **ERA: How Long Must We Wait?**, was presented by former attorney Marti Sladek. We need to keep the pressure on to add the 28th amendment to the Constitution. Currently, several court cases are in process.

If you missed the September ERA program, the link to the recording and slides are on this page:
<https://janeaddams-il.aauw.net/>

On October 19th at 7:30 pm we will have a hands-on demonstration program, **Being an AAUW Activist**, that will involve our branch members and any guests we may invite. We will learn how easy and quick it is to send a specific message to our federal government representatives. To begin our meeting, plan to share one of your favorite books or what you are reading now. This will help us get acquainted since we can't get together in person, and you might add a book to your reading list!

Women have many issues that are currently under active consideration by US legislators; paid sick leave, childcare, paid family leave, free community college, reproductive justice, and freedom from sexual harassment. We need to make progress on these issues while we have support. Let's persist like Elizabeth Warren! We can raise our voices from home as AAUW Activists! Links in the Public Policy section will aid you in becoming an AAUW Two Minute Activist.

Hope to "see" everyone on Zoom on Oct. 19th.

Link to join the meeting on Oct. 19th:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85186419131?pwd=UTZtcFFGcU9BZkFjZlBVbHhkZnB3QT09>

Elaine

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., AAUW Illinois Fall Conference

Saturday, Nov. 13, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon, AAUW Fellows & Grantees

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m., *Human Trafficking, Right in Our Backyard*

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

- **Paid leave took a big step closer to victory, but our fight is far from over.**

Last month, we celebrated the U.S. House Ways & Means Committee's decision to include a permanent, universal paid family and medical leave program in the reconciliation package. But discussions are ongoing, and changes are still likely. Over the coming weeks, you might hear that "paid leave is off the table," but we're working to ensure that is never true.

This is where you come in. We need you to keep the pressure on. With lots of work left to do, we ask that you maintain momentum with us and keep contacting your members of Congress regularly. The full House of Representatives could vote on the reconciliation package as early as Monday, and the Senate will consider the bill after that. We must make one thing clear: A permanent, universal paid leave program must be included in the final budget. We ask you to send a letter or call your US Senators and urge your friends to do the same.

Creating a universal paid leave program—which the United States does not guarantee, unlike the majority of developed countries—would be monumental. We have a once-in-a-generation chance to change the future for all workers. This is the time to make history.

Join us in ensuring all workers have permanent access to universal paid leave and other critical human infrastructure supports — [act now!](#)

- **Access to critical health care should not depend on where someone lives.**

Civic participation takes many forms, especially with an ongoing pandemic. Committing to calling your elected officials and empowering friends and family to join is just as, if not more, powerful than going to a rally or march in person. Please make decisions on where and how to advocate safely and take note of public health precautions required in your area. This week, you could:

- **Engage virtually:** Support the [Women's Health Protection Act](#) and take action on social media
- **Build community:** Have a conversation with friends and family on the importance of defending reproductive health and freedom for all (*read more in [Where We Stand: Reproductive Rights](#)*)

Every person should have the ability to make their own informed decisions regarding their reproductive life. It is beyond time for abortion to be secured legally, funded fully, and equitably available for all who need it, when they need it, without shame or stigma.

Take action today to [protect reproductive health and freedom!](#)

FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Voters across America need the Freedom to Vote Act. As LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomon said, "The Freedom to Vote Act is the bill the American people want and need to make the promise of democracy real for us all. The League of Women Voters strongly urges every Senator to support this bill." S.2747 includes a wide range of election reforms. The Freedom to Vote act has the potential to be the most significant voting rights bill passed in more than 50 years, dealing with the largest problems facing our democracy.

The Freedom to Vote Act will:

- protect and expand the right to vote
- decrease the influence of money in politics
- curb partisan gerrymandering
- protect and expand ballot access for millions of Americans, especially those who are often targeted by anti-voter laws — voters of color, voters with disabilities, formerly incarcerated voters, women voters, young voters, and elderly voters.
- provide automatic voter registration, online voter registration, and early voting provisions

*You can take action now. Tell the Senate to support the **Freedom to Vote Act.***

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

7 Staggering Facts about Domestic Abuse & Violence

1. Abuse can take many forms including physical abuse, economic abuse, emotional/psychological abuse, sexual abuse, and stalking or cyberstalking.
2. 1 in 3 women has experienced domestic violence in the US.
3. 20% of the women in the US have been raped.
4. 3 women are killed every day by their husbands or boyfriends in the US.
5. About 240,000 pregnant women are battered by the men in their lives each year in the US.
6. Women between the ages of 18-24 are most commonly abused by an intimate partner.
7. Stalking is a felony in Illinois.

10 Warning Signs of Domestic Abuse

1. **Controlling** - Abusers use their fists, words, or money to control you.
2. **Restricting Relationships** - Abusers restrict visits with your family and friends.
3. **Jealousy and Possessiveness** - Abusers are jealous of your relationship with your family, your child, or your friends.
4. **Unequal Power** - Abusers hold power over you.
5. **Won't Take No as an Answer** - Abusers will not accept if you say "No". Unwanted touching and unwanted sexual activity are abuse.
6. **Explosive Temper** - Abusers often have a terrible temper that goes from zero to sixty in an instant.
7. **Make and Break Promises All the Time** - Abusers make false promises to control you and manipulate the situation.
8. **Destroy Your Self-Confidence & Self-Worth** - Abusers put you down and destroy your self-worth, often calling you names or laughing at you.
9. **Fear and Threats** - Abusers use fear and threats to control you, often saying they will spread rumors about you, take away your children, or kill you or a family member.
10. **Physical Harm** - It is never okay for someone to slap, punch, choke, grab, kick, or spit at you. Even if it happens only once. This is abuse.

What to do? Provide this information to anyone you think is in danger.

1. Call **911** if you're in immediate danger.
2. Call a 24-hour crisis hotline to speak with a counselor: **(800) 799.7233**
3. Find a safe shelter: **(877) 863.6338**. When you call, a counselor will tell you the location of the nearest shelter with an opening for you. If you are in Chicago or the surrounding suburbs, you may also call the WINGS 24-hour Hotline at **(847) 221.5695**.

(Thanks to Elaine Fisher for providing the above articles.)