



The *INITIATIVE*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN—ROCKFORD AREA BRANCH

Website: rockfordarea-il.aauw.net

January 2016

Branch Events 2015-16

Saturday, February 20

11:00 am, 2nd Congregational/1st Presbyterian Church, Potluck luncheon.

Dr. Ramona Cornea, *Exploring the Rockford Connection to Transylvania, the Land of Dracula*

Friday, February 26, 12 Noon at Thai Hut
Let's Do Friday Lunch

Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 pm. RU LWF Election Forum for County Board Chair Candidates

Monday, March 7, YWCA Leader Luncheon, 11:30 – 1:30. Speaker: Lilly Ledbetter, AAUW's Champion of Fair Pay

Saturday, March 26, 10:00 am, Stockholm Inn
Dr. Stephanie Quinn, *Women in Ancient Greece and Rome*

Saturday, April 2, 10 – 3 at Regents Hall, Rockford University
AAUW Elect Her Workshop

Wednesday, April 20
6:00 pm, Greenfire Wine Room
Marsha Ackerman, moderator, *Why Join AAUW?*

Friday & Saturday, April 29 & 30
AAUW-IL Convention at Roosevelt University, Schaumburg Campus

Saturday, May 21
11:00 am, Forest Hills CC
Annual Meeting, Presentation of Scholarships
Keynote: Dr. Belinda Wholeben, Interim VP and Provost, Rockford University

Guests are welcome at all events. Let's invite other interesting and active women to join AAUW.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to announce that the Rockford Area Branch has been awarded a \$500.00 LEG-Up Grant from AAUW-IL. The purpose of the grant will be to help support an **Elect Her** workshop at Rockford University on April 2. We are the **only Branch** in the state to receive money for an **Elect Her** workshop this year.

We have been patiently working over the past four years to make RU's young women more aware of what AAUW has to offer. Last year, we helped RU sponsor the **Start Smart** workshop.

I would like to thank Faye Marcus and Donnette Tinsley for applying for the grant and for meeting and carrying out the plans. More about the workshop is on page four.

Another exciting event this spring is the YWCA Leader Luncheon on March 7. **AAUW's Champion of Fair Pay, Lilly Ledbetter** will be the keynote speaker. We will have an AAUW table at the luncheon to show support for her and for AAUW's mission of equal pay for women.

These two special events are in addition to the fine line-up of interesting topics and speakers for spring, 2016. I hope that you can come and enjoy the social as well as the educational aspects of our events.

The **AAUW State Convention** will be held in **Schaumburg on April 29 and 30**. This will be a great opportunity for our Branch members to experience a state meeting. Your invitation will appear in the **AAUW-IL Link**, which you will receive in early February. Subsidies are available for those who are attending for the first time.

Barbara Simon, President

Exploring the Rockford Connection to Transylvania, the Land of Dracula

Dr. Ramona Cornea

Presentation and Romanian Pot-Luck Luncheon

Saturday, Feb. 20 at 11:30am, Second Congregational/First Presbyterian Church



Did you know?

Cluj-Napoca, in central Transylvania, is a sister city to Rockford



RSVP to Regina Potts

(rp226@aol.com) or 815-262-6504



Ramona Cornea has provided the International Affairs committee with a number of recipes for a Romanian potluck. Members of the committee have chosen the recipes or items they would like to bring, but we still need other members to bring the following: Hearty Goulash Soup, Beans with Sausage, Cabbage a la Cluj, or Cabbage and Noodles. You can also bring other potluck dishes if you prefer.

We have recipes to give you, so please contact Sheryl Hall at sa_design@comcast.net or 815-298-9194 or Jean Herro at 815-289-7341 and they will send a copy.

Please make a reservation with Regina by Wednesday, Feb. 17. And---invite a friend to join us for this interesting and different event.

The **Bookbeat** Interest Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 12:45 p.m. Please contact the hostess if you wish to attend. New members are always welcome. Here are the books for 2016:

Feb. 16: *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George.

Reviewer: Barbara Simon

Hostess: Ruth Siegfried

March 15: *Where'd You Go Bernadette?* By Marie Semple

Reviewer: Diane Kuehl

Hostess: Faye Marcus

April 19: *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrick Backman

Reviewer: Enid Michalowski

Hostess: Carole Newcomer

May 17: *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain

Reviewer: Carole Newcomer

Hostess: TBA

YWCA LEADER LUNCHEON **Monday, March 7, 11:30 – 1:30** **Giovanni's**

The speaker will be Lilly Ledbetter, who in 1998, fought for equal pay all the way to the Supreme Court in a suit against Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. She lost there because of the requirement that a suit be filed within 180 days of starting the job, even though she did not know about the discrimination then.

In 2009, Congress passed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Its aim is to loosen the timeliness requirements for the filing of discrimination suits. AAUW joined in the efforts as a lobbyist to pass the legislation.

Our Branch will have a table at the luncheon. You must get in touch with Faye Marcus by Feb. 6 if you wish to attend. Tickets are \$55.00.

Save the date

Saturday, March 26, 10:00am



Women in Ancient Greece and Rome

Dr. Stephanie Quinn

This event will be at the Stockholm Inn.

ELECT HER

- What is **ELECT HER**? And why are we so excited to be involved with this innovative program?

ELECT HER is the only program in the country that encourages and trains college women to run for student government and future political office off campus. It is a collaboration between AAUW and Running Start; ELECT HER addresses the need to expand the pipeline of women candidates and to decrease the political leadership gender gap. Nationally only 19 percent of all elected offices-federal, state, local-are held by women!

- What does an **ELECT HER** training look like?

ELECT HER is a one-day, 4-5 hour training. Campus administrators, students, and local AAUW members collaborate with AAUW and the Running Start organization to plan the trainings. I found out about ELECT HER at national AAUW convention last June. Donnette Tinsley, Director for Civic Engagement @ the Jane Addams Center at Rockford University applied for a grant to AAUW to host an ELECT HER training. And RU was awarded one of 50 grants, the only one in Illinois! Students from RU and other surrounding colleges and universities will be nominated by their professors and other students to attend this one-day workshop. Participants practice hands-on campaign skills, hear from inspiring local speakers, and discuss research on women in government. The planning committee including 2 students at RU, Donnette Tinsley and Faye Marcus have been working together along with phone help from Jessica Kelly, Program Manager-Campus Leadership Programs AAUW. We have been meeting regularly since the summer.

The training is divided into several segments and is facilitated by a trained facilitator who is sent here by AAUW. We will have 2 panels-a student panel composed of student representatives from RU and other invited colleges and a panel composed of local elected women officials. These women are: Jude Makulec-Board member RPS 205; Mary McNamara-Bernsten-Board member Winnebago County Forest Preserve; and Litesa Wallace-Illinois State Representative 67th district. A communications expert is also included as one of the segments; Mike Robinson-Communications Director for OSF St. Anthony Health System will help us in that portion.

- Why Student Government?

Women make up a majority of the electorate, yet they have never been equally represented in the political sphere. AAUW believes that encouraging women to be involved in politics and being elected to an office while still a college student is the key to strengthening and increasing women's representation in government. In fact 56 percent of women in the current US Congress began their leadership careers in student government.

- 2015 ELECT HER by the numbers:

Over 1,000 students on 50 campuses attended an ELECT HER training in 2015. We anticipate that at least 50 students will attend our training.

76% of the 2015 participants who reported running for student office WON!

99% of those who participated in 2015 reported that they would recommend ELECT HER to a friend.

So now you know why we are so excited about this workshop! Of course this workshop costs money; we are being supported by our local AAUW branch, AAUW, Rockford University and AAUW-IL. As AAUW members you are invited to attend.

SAVE the DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2016, 9:30 A.M.-3 P.M., REGENTS HALL, BURPEE CENTER at Rockford University.

Breakfast and lunch will be served, RSVP'S required. Invitations will be sent at a later time.

For more information, please contact Faye Marcus.

From Faye Marcus, Public Policy Chair

VOTER INFORMATION:

Voting is your right as a citizen of this country. The Primary Election in Illinois is March 15. Are you registered to vote? Have you moved? Changed your name? Then you must re-register if you haven't already. Do you know a young voter who has never voted? Please take her/him to register. There is a new law that allows 17 year olds to register and vote in the primary election if they will be 18 by the General election on November 8. The deadline for registering to be able to vote in the primary election is February 16.

Where can you register:

Do you live in the City of Rockford? Go to 301 S. 6th St.. 815-987-5750. www.voterockford.com.

Do you live in Winnebago County? County Clerk's office: 404 Elm St. 815-319-4252. www.winnebago-countyclerk.com.

Do you live in Boone County? County Clerk's office: 1212 Logan Av., 815-544-3103. www.boonectyil.org

Do you live in Ogle County? County Clerk's office: 105 S. Fifth St. Oregon, www.elections@oglecounty.org.

Who is up for election in the Illinois Primary on March 15?

President, U.S. Senators, Illinois State Comptroller, Representatives in Congress for the 16th and 17th districts, State Senators for 34th and 35th districts, State Representatives in the 67th, 68th, 69th, and 89th districts.

Many county offices in Boone, Ogle, and Winnebago counties are also up for election. Find out about them and VOTE.

CANDIDATE FORUM:

SAVE THE DATE:

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2016

6:30 P.M. AT ROCKFORD UNIVERSITY, MADDOX THEATER

WREX-TV AND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS will be hosting a forum featuring the candidates for Winnebago County Clerk: Scott Christenson (incumbent) and Frank Haney (challenger).

This is a very important office. Please put forum on your calendar. Bring friends and family.



SCHNUCKS BENEFITS CARDS

AAUW Rockford has been benefitting for several years from our members having designated AAUW when shopping at Schnucks. We have paid for our brochures and other non-budgeted expenses this way.

Our Schnucks income has decreased a little so we hope that you all will check to see that you have designated AAUW and are using your Schnucks card when shopping.

It's not a credit card. Rather, it is just a tab that you keep on your key ring that says that AAUW will get credit when you shop. You just show your tab at check-out. We get a small percentage of all that members spend. **AND**, you can get cheaper gas at Schnucks when you accumulate amounts.

Joan Stehulek, our Funds Chair, will be in touch with our members about enrolling for **AAUW Schnucks Benefits**.

Or, you can email Joan Stehulak at stehulak@juno.com or call her at 815-520-3194. She will get the tabs for you.

GOTV-GET OUT THE VOTE

IT'S MY VOTE: I WILL BE HEARD

AAUW has been the nation's leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls since our founding in 1881. In 2012, AAUW launched the ACTION FUND IT'S MY VOTE: I WILL BE HEARD campaign. Through this campaign, AAUW members throughout the USA have registered thousands of millennial women at a time when young voters are less likely to vote.

AAUW is dedicated to making sure that every woman (and man) who is eligible to vote gets registered and then goes to the polls on election day and casts a ballot. We do NOT advocate for specific candidates, but we DO advocate for specific issues. From Congressional inaction on the Paycheck Fairness Act to frequent attacks on our reproductive rights, the current political climate seldom includes or responds to women's voices. To get real change, women must be part of the conversation. The most powerful way for our voices to be heard is at the poles.

AAUW's issues are spelled out on our website: www.aauw.org/publicpolicy. Among the important issues that AAUW advocates for are:

- **Civil Rights** including Equal Rights Amendment, federal judicial nominations, hate crime prevention, human trafficking, LGBT issues, reproductive rights
- **Economic Security** including pay equity, health care, social security, paid sick days, retirement security, work-life balance
- **Education** including STEM education, early childhood, higher education
- **TITLE IX** including equity in school athletics, sexual harassment and violence in schools and single sex education.

Do you want to know how our Congress people voted on specific issues? You can access that information for 13th Congress (2013) on the web site. Or call me-Faye Marcus. I have copies. The voting record provides information about Senators' and Representatives' sponsorships and votes on many of the above mentioned issues.

Once you are educated now go VOTE.

Faye Marcus, Public Policy Chair