

AAUW EVENTS CALENDAR 2017

Friday, March 31: 12pm, BB's Soul Food (6116 Mulford Village Dr.) – Catholic Charities refugee program update from Janet Biljeskovic.

Friday, April 7: 10:30am, Katie's Cup – Round Table discussion group led by Dr. Christina Kamer

Tuesday, April 18: Book Beat *rescheduled*

Thursday, April 20: 5:15pm, Tavern on Clark – AAUW Rockford Branch Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 26: 6pm, Tavern on Clark – Bessica Raiche: First Woman Aviator of America, Midway Village Presentation

Friday & Saturday, May 5 & 6: Champaign IL – AAUW IL State Convention, Champaign, IL

Thursday, May 18: 5:15pm, Tavern on Clark – AAUW Rockford Branch Board Meeting

Saturday, June 3: 11am, Forest Hills Country Club – Annual Meeting & Luncheon, Keynote Speaker: Litesa Wallace

June 14 – 17: Washington DC – AAUW National Convention

Tuesday, July 18: 5:00pm-7:00pm, Rockford University Club – Tip the Bartender Local AAUW STEM Scholarship Fundraiser

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is basically a copy of report I sent to the State AAUW. I thought that everyone would like to know my opinion of our Rockford Branch.

There are so many things that our Branch does well, but their ability to follow through independently on ideas is front and center. What is interesting is that without asking for volunteers at events, they

just happen. Members just step in and take a role without any chaos. They just seem to move together. There are no meetings or requests for volunteers. They just happen. But to me the shining moment was when I took office as President. I have only been a member for about 2 years. Prior to taking office we got a grant for Elect Her. I attended the presentation. Then at the Spring Conference, women running for office was again discussed. My neighbors had been asking me to run against the current Alderman who had become abusive and misused her power. Neighbors had become afraid of her. I refused multiple times until attending the Convention. It was then that I made the commitment to run. In July 2016 I became President which is difficult enough if one has never served on committees, but in August I filed to be a candidate for the 8th Ward Alderman. It was to become the most watched race in the City because of her actions community wide. She ran a bitter and contentious race while I focused on running an upbeat and positive one. I also adhered to the beliefs of AAUW. I focused on issues and not on political parties. I also focused on teaching people how to be a participant by providing them with the information on how to register as well as how to vote. Using those principles, we increased voter participation 250% from the last election for Alderman. The City average participation was 6%. In my Ward, it was from over 9% to 16%. In the end, I won 78% to 21%. But it took tremendous strength and perseverance to achieve. I was able to do so only because of people like Barbara Simon who always kept me on track as to where I needed to be with AAUW. She always had my back and all the Committee Officers who pulled things together and kept things running smoothly. They held me up when I thought that I couldn't hold on much longer.

To me, this was not personal. It was a Rockford Branch win based on AAUW principles.

Thank you all for your support and assistance.

Karen Hoffman, President

AAUW ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION

Friday-Saturday, May 5-6, 2017

Champaign, Illinois

at I-Hotel, 1900 S 1st St, Champaign, IL

[Map link](#)

Hotel Reservations

Hotel rates are \$149+tax for king or two queen beds.

Rates are guaranteed until April 4.

Call 217-819-5000 or [book online](#).

All members welcome to attend.

Our Upcoming Events

Our next "Let's do Friday Lunch" will be on Friday, March 31 at noon, at BB's Soul Food at 6116 Mulford Village Drive. Please contact Regina Potts by March 29 for a reservation.



Wednesday, April 26th at 6pm at Tavern on Clark



**BESSICA RAICHE –
First Woman Aviator
of America**

- A Midway Village Presentation

RSVP to Regina Potts (email: rp226@aol.com) or 815-262-6504 by April 20th.

June –Save the Date

AAUW ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

June 3, 2017 – 11:00am
Forest Hills Country Club

Annual Reports Due Soon – Tammy Schulz

According to our branch by-laws, the annual report must be compiled and distributed to the membership two weeks before the June 3 Annual Meeting. Please prepare and submit your reports to branch secretary, Tammy Schulz (tjs123@me.com) no later than **May 1**. It is requested that you submit all reports in Arial font, size 11. Reports are needed from the following Board and Committee leaders: President, VP - Programming, VP - Membership (including updated Dues payment form), Secretary, Treasurer (including proposed 2016-2017 budget), Scholarship Committee, International Affairs Committee, Public Policy Committee, Nominating Committee, STEM Initiatives group, Book Beat group, Let's Do Lunch group, Roundtable Discussion group. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy at the above email.

Donna Joy Memorial STEM Scholarship Update – Diane Kuehl

The Rockford AAUW Affiliate has received a record number of applicants for the Donna Joy STEM Scholarship this year with twenty applications from nine different regional high schools.

The committee is busy reading and rating each candidate to identify the three awardees this year who will each be awarded \$1000. These local women will be sharing their academic stories at the AAUW Rockford Annual Meeting Luncheon at Forest Hills Country Club on Saturday June 3.

Please come to congratulate our STEM scholars, young women to watch in the future of STEM initiatives.

SAVE THE DATE: Our 2017 Tip the Bartender fundraiser will be on Tuesday, July 18th from 5:00-7:00pm at Rockford University Club. This event is our local STEM scholarship fundraiser.

Public Policy Reminder – Faye Marcus

Now is the time to become an advocate. Here are some easy tools:

AAUW ACTION ALERTS, 2 MINUTE ACTIVIST (www.AAUW.org)

DAILY ACTION—for your smartphone: text **ACTION** to: 228466. They will send you a message to include your zip code and then you will receive a daily message with whom to call.

5 CALLS: go to 5calls.org for more information. You can also download the application to your smartphone from either the Apple [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). 5 Calls provides phone numbers and scripts so calling is quick and easy. It also uses your location to find your local representatives so your calls have more impact.

RESISTBOT: text **RESIST** to 50409. Resistbot will ask for your name and information to find your elected officials. (Your representatives will know you're a constituent—that's who matters to them.) Resistbot then turns your text messages into daily letters to Congress. Note that Resistbot does not tell you what to say; you will need to create your own message. You can find more information at <https://resistbot.io/>.

***Congratulations to our President, Karen Hoffman
– new alderman in Rockford's 8th Ward.***

Book Beat Reading List 2017

Book Beat meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 12:45. Please call the hostess if you would like to attend.

April 18: *Meeting moved to August*

May 16: *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende

Reviewer: Pat Gomez

Hostess: Kathy Dierstein

June 20: *White Collar Girl* by Renee Rosen

Reviewer: Diane Kuehl

Hostess: Karen Shifo

July 18: *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance

Reviewer: Kathy Dierstein

Hostess: Barbara Simon

Aug. 15: *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Reviewer: Enid Michalowski

Hostess: Carole Newcomer

Board Meetings

Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:15pm at Tavern on Clark.

Members are always welcome to attend.

AAUW Treasurer's Report

Katy Paterson

March 16, 2017

Operating Fund

Beginning Balance \$ 3,410.62

Receipts

Schnucks Scrip \$ 24.85

Ending balance on March 16, 2017 \$ 3,434.97

AAUW Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance \$ 6,212.62

Donations \$ 39.00

Ending balance on March 16, 2017 \$ 6,251.62

As of March 16, 2017, we have 73 members.

Yearbook Correction Note

Please see your March 18th email for a correction to the information for Jacqueline Parochka.

2017 AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION

JUNE 14-17 • WASHINGTON DC

Time is running out! Hundreds of your fellow AAUW members, leaders, and supporters are gathering in the nation's capital this June. Will you join them?

[Sign up now before the convention sells out!](#)

Convention is the perfect learning opportunity for AAUW branch leaders. You will gain new leadership skills at [workshops](#), learn best practices from other branches, network with fellow members and leaders during [Daily Dialogues](#), and be thrilled by this year's impressive [speakers and awardees](#).

The convention will sell out, so what are you waiting for? **[Register by March 31](#)** to lock in the early-bird rate!

Membership Report – Pat Gomez

As of March 16, the Rockford Area Branch has **73 members**. Barbara Simon prepared a list of the new members who joined after the Annual Booklet was published. The list contains the new members' contact information. Barbara provided this addendum to all the members.

In February of every year, the national AAUW compiles a record of membership levels for all the branches, grouped by state. For the year 2016-2017, the record indicates that there are 43 branches in Illinois. Of those 43, only 7 branches enrolled 10 or more new members. **The Rockford branch has the distinction of enrolling 13 new members, placing us third from the top.** Only two branches had a higher number of new members: Downers Grove and Naperville each enrolled 19 new members. Elgin also enrolled 13 new members, but because they are a larger group, their percentage of increase was 3.6% while ours was 10.6%.

Four potential new members for 2017-2018 have been referred to me for follow-up. New members are recruited through the events we sponsor, and by greeting the public at our display table at partner events. The attractive and professional-looking fliers and media releases helped raise our image and profile. The frequent reminders and the calling committee add that human touch which makes a huge difference in assuring that people feel welcome.

In summary, Rockford has earned its membership distinction through the actions of many talented and dedicated persons, with minor contributions from the Membership VP. I want to thank everyone who filled in for me when I was out of town, and to all the board members for fulfilling your duties with your usual care and consistency.

AAUW Funds – Barbara Simon

As our Scholarship Committee is busy working on this year's applications, I would like to mention that our local scholarships began with two \$500.00 awards in 2011.

This year, as a result of successful fundraising in 2016, we are able to offer three \$1000.00 awards. It is so exciting that we are able to grow our funds within our branch and help three young women to advance their education.

As for our national funds, we were able to give \$1200.00 to the "Charting the Course" campaign last December. That is the result of a successful Silent Auction. The campaign reached their \$1-million-dollar goal.

I would like to mention one other fund—the Legacy Fund. Being a member of the Legacy Fund means that you have arranged for a planned gift in your will. Faye Marcus is a Legacy member. Information about becoming a legacy member is available on the national web site, aauw.org.

Do you like to write? Or perhaps you have an idea for an article for *The Initiative*?

If you'd like to help with this newsletter, please contact Kathe Heyer or Barbara Simon to volunteer.
Remember, it's only as good as we make it!



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION GROUP – Barbara Simon, RTD recorder

The Round Table discussion group met on March 3 at Katie's Cup. Leader Christina Kamer chose the topic of Pay Equity as the first topic. She presented AAUW research as well as life experience as a Human Resources professional.

She mentioned some interesting statistics including that pay for women is now about 80% that of men with Hispanic women at 54% and African American women at 52%. One especially interesting comparison is that Adam Kinzinger, IL member of Congress gets \$51,919 while Cheri Bustos gets \$44,115.

AAUW has brought public awareness to this gap since 1996 and has been in the forefront of getting legislation passed to promote pay equity. This is one of the most important focuses of AAUW and the reason they have developed *Start Smart and Work Smart*.

The hour and a half time went by quickly and we are looking forward to the **next meeting on April 7, 10:30 to 12:00 at Katie's Cup**. Topics suggested for future meetings include STEM versus STEAM, equity versus equality, early childhood Education, good parenting, and school vouchers.

All branch members are invited to come to any meeting of the group. Please come and enjoy the discussion.

We welcome your input and suggestions. You don't have to attend every session; simply reply to Barbara's email when you are coming. Please let us hear your ideas for this group!

LOCAL EVENTS WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FLAIR

Saturday, 4/22	Rockford University Fisher Chapel	International Food Festival	5:00-8:00pm
Saturday, 4/29	Centennial Methodist Church on Broadway	Taste of Centennial	4:00-6:00pm
Friday/Saturday, 6/16-17	Swedish Historical Society	Midsommar Fest	9:00am-10:00pm
Friday/Saturday/Sunday, 8/4-8/6	Boylan High School	Festa Italiana	Times TBD
Sunday, 8/20	St. Stanislaus Church	Polish Fest	11:30am-8:00pm
Sunday, 8/27	7th Street & 5th Avenue	Midtown District Ethnic Parade & Festival	12:00pm-6:00pm
Sunday, 11/5	Venetian Club	Taste of Italy	Time TBD

– Thanks to Pat Gomez for this list! –

Have a smart phone? ✓ Like to shop? ✓ Want to help increase branch finances? ✓

See your Oct.21 email from Karen Hoffman to learn how to help by using eScrip.



Help get \$100 for Rockford Area
Branch AAUW

How can 10 = 100?



AAUW ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

June 3, 2017 – 11:00am
Forest Hills Country Club

Annual Meeting & Presentation of Scholarships

Keynote Speaker: IL State Rep. Litesa Wallace
Women in Politics

Luncheon Choices

- ☐ A. Chicken Marsala with Marsala Mushroom Sauce—\$25.00
- ☐ B. Broiled Cod with Citrus Butter—\$25.00
- ☐ C. Risotto Pomodoro with Tomato Basil Sauce—\$25.00

All selections served with a tossed salad with trio of dressings, rolls and butter, and coffee or water.

Name _____ Entrée _____

Name _____ Entrée _____

Name _____ Entrée _____

Mail check payable to **AAUW ROCKFORD** to Regina Potts, 4907 Streamside Dr., Rockford, IL 61111.
Questions? Phone 815-262-6504 or email RP226@AOL.COM. RESERVATION DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, MAY 31.