

September 2013

Celebrating 90 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!

President's Report

Marilyn Van Ausdall

We've come a long way, Ladies. August 26 marked another Women's Equality Day, celebrating the 93rd anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. (It was also my wedding anniversary, and thanks to the Women's Liberation Movement going on at the time, I knew 41 years ago NOT to promise to obey.)

Women's Equality Day was established by Bella Abzug in 1971, the same year that AAUW announced official support for the Equal Rights Amendment. AAUW established the ERA Fund, became a member of the ERA Ratification Council in D.C., and staged a temporary boycott in 1977 to hold regional and national AAUW conventions only in states that had ratified the ERA.

Women's Equality Day recognizes the hard work of the women and men who led the successful suffrage movement. Unfortunately, we still have much to do to keep the polls accessible to everyone today. Shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 ruling, struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, Texas passed a voter ID law that would unnecessarily burden poor, minority citizens from exercising their right to vote. The Texas law is one of a handful of such voter-ID laws that have been passed or proposed throughout the country in the last two years.

Then, of course, there is the issue of the Equal Rights Amendment. Written by Alice Paul in 1921 and first proposed to Congress in 1923, it has been presented to every Congress since then and has been through a tumultuous battle for passage and ratification. AAUW-IL and AAUW-MO were recently awarded a joint Impact Grant from AAUW. Goals for the grant are to build momentum for ratification of the ERA in the two states

by energizing more members to become politically active, to increase awareness of the importance of

involvement (especially on issues relating to pay equity for women), and to increase coalitions with ERA advocates.

How can we in the Monmouth Area best carry on the work begun by our foremothers? How can we best educate others and join the fight for these important issues? How can we get to the point where no one in our area will have to ask the question, "What is AAUW?" I am open to any and all ideas as we continue to move forward with AAUW in the 21st century, breaking through barriers for women and girls and working for equal rights for all.



Alice Paul

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AAUW September 18, 2013 Program

Kick Off Meeting

5 pm

Donna Sproston

Join us at Market Alley Wines at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18th for our first meeting of the year. Hear about programming, connect with women of similar interests, and learn about downtown development in Monmouth. Donna Sproston will provide some appetizers, and you may purchase a glass of wine or a non-alcoholic refreshment.

Paul Scuytema will update us on what is going on in construction and rehabilitation in Monmouth. As the current Director of Community Development for Monmouth, he is using his creative talents to look at how small towns can attract a variety of businesses. Paul is a technologist and gameologist, and his resume includes a variety of talents which he brings to his current position.

Bring a friend and introduce them to AAUW.



District #3 meeting - AAUW-IL

Shirley Daddona, District Director

Nov. 2, 2013

Hope you have the district meeting on your calendar. It is from 11 to 2 on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013 at the Packinghouse restaurant, across from the Amtrak Depot in Galesburg. Please plan to attend.

Lunch can be ordered from the menu. A good choice is the salad bar. I have checked it out and it is very good.

Public Policy

Jan DeYoung

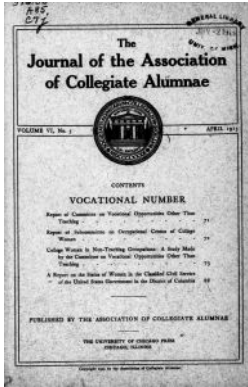
You Haven't Come a Long Way, Baby ... Pay Equity since 1913



Laura Dana Morgan led the 1913 study on women in the federal workforce.

AAUW has a long history of [advocating fair pay](#) for women — dating back to 1894, in fact. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as more women entered the workforce in a wider variety of positions, [Association of Collegiate Alumnae](#) (the predecessor organization to AAUW) leaders realized that women were not being fairly compensated because of their gender. Soon after the association released its first research [report](#) on pay equity in 1894, branches became invested in examining how the issue related to women in their communities.

This year, we mark the centennial of the first equal pay study conducted by a branch. In 1913, the association's Washington, D.C., branch published the results of their study on women in government positions. Laura Dana Morgan, branch member of the AAUW Committee on Vocational Opportunities, reported on the results in the April 1913 issue of the *AAUW Journal*. Morgan summarized the research and presented statistics compiled on the number of women employed by various government departments, the types of positions they held, and the salaries they earned compared to those of men.



The April 1913 issue of the AAUW Journal published Morgan's report.

The branch discovered that just 29 percent of government employees were women. Women were employed in 13 departments, some of which were entirely open to women and others in which "women [were] rarely or never employed." The report also addressed the training needed for various positions, women's access to that training, and the issue of advancement potential.

A mixed picture was presented. Some government bureaus reported that "women are given due consideration in the question of advancement." On the other hand, the Treasury Department admitted that women "do not stand an equal chance with men, but there is a nearer approach to equality than was formerly the case." There was some good news: "It is now not an uncommon thing for women to reach the higher grades in the service."

The most astonishing conclusion of the report is one that will sound strikingly familiar today: in 1913, women's salaries in federal jobs were approximately 77.5 percent of men's. Men on average were paid \$1,079 annually and women were paid \$837.

Things have improved. A 2009 [report](#) found that, among federal workers, women were paid 89 percent of what men were paid. Yet, it is remarkable that this number from 1913 — 77.5 percent — is so close to today's national [figure](#). It's a reminder both of the progress we've made and of the reality that the journey is [far from over](#). Here's hoping the next 100 years will show more progress than the last.



Film Group

Nancy Buban

We will begin the year by viewing "Eve's Bayou," a 1997 film that is a critically-acclaimed Southern gothic drama. Written and directed by Kasi Lemmon, it is set in the '60's in Louisiana and is the story of the Batiste family. Louis Batiste is the charming town doctor, a loving family man, but also a womanizer. It is a look at family secrets and betrayals. Roger Ebert stated that the film "Studies the way that dangerous emotions can build until something happens that no one is responsible for and that can never be taken back." Please join us on Monday, September 23rd at 207 South Eighth Street. Viewing will begin at 7:00 and popcorn will be popped.

¡Adelante! Book Group

Alice Lawson

Book group will meet on Sept. 30 (5th Monday) at Jan DeYoung's home. If you like to read and discuss the books you read, join us. All are welcome. The book this month is "Mrs., Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chiaverini. The library has two copies. See you at Jan's.

Art Presenter Program

Lila Blum & Jan DeYoung

ART PRESENTER PROGRAM MOVES FORWARD UNDER NEW ADMINISTRATION

The Art Presenter Program is moving into its 41st year under the administration of Buchanan Center for the Arts. Susan Twomey, Buchanan Center Director, feels that the program is compatible with the mission of the art center and wants to continue the Art Presenter tradition of providing important experiences in art for elementary students.

While the collection of art works and portfolios are already housed at Buchanan Center, we have been

occupied with transferring a large number of reserve art works, portfolio materials, and operational information to Buchanan Center. In the process we have dissolved the AAUW not-for-profit corporation as the program will now be part of the Buchanan Center organization.

Lori Ockert has agreed to continue as Art Presenter coordinator during this transition period. We expect that Buchanan Center will pursue a greater online presence for the program and increased use of technology for classroom presentations. The possibilities are exciting.

Meanwhile, we have sifted through 40 years of pictures, newspaper articles, rotation schedules, and anniversary celebration materials which document the extent of the program's outreach to the community and the schools. We are amazed, when looking at the roster of presenters going back 40 years, at the huge number of people who participated in this program.

Our next goal is to create a large scrapbook that records the first 40 years of Art Presenter's history. This will be a tribute to all persons who served the program and made it possible. The Art Presenter Program is part of the history of the Monmouth area.

We will continue to support the program under its new management and provide assistance to Lori Ockert in her efforts to recruit and launch a new year for Art Presenter. The Art Presenter tradition lives on!



International Affairs

Donna Sproston

If we educate a boy, we educate the man. If we educate a girl, we educate a village. This Girl Effect mantra based on a famous Ghanaian proverb is supported by data collected over the last fifty years. Check out the updated video at www.thegirleffect.org to see why investing in girls is an investment in the future. What is the significance of the age of 12?



Membership

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Our **September 18 meeting** at Market Alley Wines will be our first **Cocktails and Convos** (cocktails and conversation) event. National suggests this idea as "a great way to draw in the community in a fun and casual setting where members and nonmembers alike come together and discuss women's issues." It has been successfully used by other branches to bring in "recent college graduates, college faculty, young professionals, and older executives who want to stay plugged in to what the younger segment of the workforce is thinking and the issues that are important to them."

With those people in mind, try to think of someone you could bring to our kickoff event. Since it will be open to the public, we can use it as a Shape the Future campaign, a recruitment tool that allows us to offer a discounted rate of 50% off National dues to prospective members when they join that evening. For every two newly-recruited members, our branch earns one free national membership to give away – up to a maximum of five free memberships annually. This would be a wonderful way for us to increase our membership. And we especially need to concentrate on YOUNG WOMEN if our branch is going to continue to be viable into the future.



Finance Report

Shirley Daddona

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|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Checking | \$ 354.68 (\$454.68 -\$100.00) |
| AAUW Funds balance | \$170.28 (\$270.28 - \$100.00) |
| CD - | \$800.00 |

We have 33 paid members and possibly one more not yet paid.

New Member-Laura Stahl

Please welcome our newest member, Laura Stahl! Laura grew up in Monmouth, Illinois and attended Lake Forest College where she received her bachelor's degree in English Literature and minor in Art History in 2012. She is currently working at the Monmouth Chamber of Commerce and working on her masters in Museum Studies at Western Illinois University- Quad Cities Campus.

Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Vision Statement: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

Value Promise: By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Association Web site: www.aauw.org

AAUW-Illinois Web site:

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

Monmouth Branch Web site:

<http://monmoutharea-il.aauw.net/>

AAUW Initiative Editor: Sharon Gilbert,
sharongilbert1484@comcast.net

